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An appreciation of the Italian and his contributions to American life

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Thesis

AN APPRECIATION OF THE ITALIAN AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN LIFE

Submitted by
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(B.S. in Ed., Bridgewater Teachers College, 1932)

In partial fulfillment of requirements for the
degree of Master of Education.

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FOREWORD

I wish to make myself clearly understood at the very outset of this paper that the following pages are offered merely to the attention of the man in the street who, although he very often has a considerable knowledge of the Italy of the past ages in the arts and sciences, he has very little acquaintance with, and very many misconceptions of, the character and the nature of the Italians who now find themselves within our borders.

It is designed that this study should be sympathetic but critical. As an enthusiastic American of Itlaian descent, I can honestly say that, while my sympathies may have somewhat colored the style of my exposition, I have not, to the best of my knowledge, allowed it to color its contents. In fact I have not failed to point out the negative features of the Italian character, whenever present.

Now, it is very natural that a great mass of the American public should hold very mistaken ideas concerning Italians. I think I am not unduly exaggerating when I say that to a great mass the name Italian still conveys little else than barrel-organs, fruit peddlers, ice-cream vendors, cheap restaurants and the like - all useful objects, but not necessarily representative of a great nation. The Italian

quaters in our large cities are not, unfortunately, possessed of the best names for orderliness, nor their inhabitants renowned for quiet and peaceful living. But it is, I think, scarcely fair to the Italians as a whole to judge them entirely by those specimens of their race which, for some reason or another, have elected to dwell out of their own country. A considerable proportion of this class of Italians is made up of those who have been failures at home. A considerable proportion, too, is recruited from the parts of Italy where illiteracy is still largely prevalent.

I do not intend to imply that Americans should regard the Italian race as an ideal one but I do wish to stress that the Americans, in their enthusiasm for an Italy of the past - the Italy of the Fine Arts and Sciences, of magnificent palaces, churches, and monuments, of curious and picturesque popular customs - have altogether forgotten to study the Italians of today that are amongst us. The result has been that as a nation, we are in reality, profoundly ignorant of the character, temperament, aims, and aspirations of the modern Italians. I can testify to the fact that this ignorance has had a very deplorable effect on American-Italian relations.

I feel that the cure for this astonishing ignorance and indifference toward the Italian is simply larger information

and better acquaintance with him. This is what this paper hopes to accomplish to some degree. This larger knowledge and better acquaintance will show us, not only that he is a human being of like passions with ourselves, but that he has many admirable and redeeming traits of character which we may well imitate; that he will respond to kindly and generous treatment, for his loneliness and isolation make him peculiarly open to friendly advances. A little first or second-hand knowledge will teach us that the average Italian has in him the qualities which will make an admirable citizen, a capable participant in all fields of American life, and an individual who is sure to further the welfare and prosperity of our country.

CHAPTER I

THE INHERITANCE AND PROGRESS OF ITALIANS

A:-The Italian Heritage.

The poorest Italian that comes to this country is joint-heir to a splendid heritage. By blood and language he is linked with conquerors and rulers, great administrators, artists, musicians and poets. Other important races of the world are distinguished for superiority in some one or two or three lines of achievement. The Greeks were artists and poets and orators, but they were never great administrators or rulers, at least after the earlier days of their national glory. The British have distinguished themselves in the field of administration and colonization, but they are not supreme as artists; the Germans are philolophers and have been considered men of might in war and diplomacy, but they have not the many-sidedness of the Italian character.

The earliest inhabitants of Italy who are recorded in history were related to the Greeks, and were of the same Aryan race, though having distinct qualities and characteristics of their own; while in the south of Italy, especially, were pure Greek colonies at a very early date. Space does not permit me to speak of the Etruscans, Liguri-

ans, Venetians, and the Celtic tribes which in the early days occupied different parts of the long peninsula, but it is interesting to know that the Italians, like all the great races of the world, have mixed blood flowing in their veins.

Greek and Celt and Norman, and Spaniard and Saracen and the barbarians from beyond the Alps have from time to time sent their hordes to devastate Italy, and, whether conquered or conquering, have in time been assimilated, and become as good Italians as those of purest blood.

The earliest history of Italy is known only through the classic legends. It was then inhabited by a variety of tribes. At some time prior to 700 B. C. came the founding of Rome and in due course the sway of this city was extended in all directions until it eventually spread over most of the then known world. Thus Italy became and for several centuries remained a world empire, the center of world culture and civilization. All roads led to the Eternal City, a proud metropolis with a population of over a million.

Then ensued a long period of decline in Roman power and its ultimate collapse in the fifth Christian century. The barbarians from the north came down into Italy, overran it, sacked its cities, wrecked its government, and turned the land into a desolation. Next followed the periods of

Gothic, Byzantine, Lombard, and Carolingian domination--each with its own vicissitudes. Much could be written on the history of this lurid interval of five centuries from 500 to 100 A.D. It is enough to say that banditry and disorder too often got the upper hand in spite of all that either the civil or ecclesiastical authorities could do.

"With the beginning of the eleventh century some signs of a revival appeared. The cities, particularly in the northern part of the peninsula, began once more to grow and flourish. Princes and dukes, as well as communes and republics, were able to stabilize their power in a host of small states and to maintain a semblance of discipline although they were frequently at war with one another. By the close of the middle ages the time had become ripe for the welding of these jarring areas into a unified nation; but unhappily no unification was achieved. On the contrary this civil warfare paved the way for an era of foreign domination which proved to be long continued. England and France attained the goal of unity; Italy did not. She remained a geographical expression down to the end of the nineteenth century. Local jealousies, regionalism, foreign control, and a lack of national consciousness all contributed to make it so.

"The beginnings of progress toward the unification of Italy date from the years 1798-1799 when Napoleon Bonaparte

invaded the land with his ever-victorious armies and brought the whole land under his control. Thereupon, in true Napoleonic fashion, he combined many of the small states into a Cisalpine Republic, and finally united the entire peninsula under French tutelage. To all of it he extended the Code Napoleon and the French administrative system. In this way he stamped upon Italian political and legal institutions an impress which they bear to this day. But this unification of Italy proved to be brief for it went to pieces when the Napoleonic empire collapsed. Nevertheless it gave the Italian people a new vision and revived among them their old consciousness of a common nationality. Thus it was the rise of a Bonaparte that first created among the Italians, a determination to be united under a government of their own. And, curiously enough, it was the fall of another Bonaparte (1870) that in both cases enabled this unification to be consummated." (1)

"When Napoleon began his disastrous war with Prussia, every French soldier was needed in the fight against this mighty foe, so his troops were withdrawn from Rome after seventeen years of French rule, and the Pope was left to look out for himself.

"When the French were finally defeated at Sedan, and the Republic of France was Proclaimed, there were no obsta-

(1) Munro, W. B.--The Governments of Europe. - p. 678.

cles to the entrance of the Italian troops. Victor Emanuel, desiring a peaceful occupation, earnestly urged Pius IX, who was then Pope, to give up his temporal power. This the Pope refused to do, so Victor took matters into his own hands. On the twentieth of September, 1870, he battered down the Porta Pia, and through this demolished gateway the soldiers of United Italy entered the Eternal City. The great result for which patriots had been longing and praying and fighting for nearly a hundred years had been accomplished." (1)

In order to maintain the dignity and security of her new position Italy rapidly increased her army and navy. Universal military service was introduced as in other European states, and modern warships were built. Then the Italians decided to seek colonies in Africa, and in 1887 sent an army into Abyssinia; but after fifteen years of intermittent warfare they were able to retain only a strip along the coast of the Red Sea. Later, in 1912, after a war with Turkey they took Tripoli on the south shore of the Mediterranean.

"The cost of armaments reduced Italy almost to bankruptcy at times, and, as it was not a rich country, made the taxes excessive. Since these fell largely on the poor, hundreds of thousands of Italians left their own country and

(1) Clark, F. E. - Italians in Their Old Homes and Their New. - p. 30.

as emigrants sought new homes in the United States or in Argentina. Many of those who stayed at home were discontented with the government and became socialists. Progress, however, has been made in Italy; railroads were built by the State to open up the country, and manufactures have grown up in the northern part so that Milan and Turin are today among the great manufacturing cities of Europe. National schools are providing better education, although the peasants in the mountainous districts are still very ignorant and superstitious." (1)

It must not be forgotten that Italy is practically a young nation, born indeed many centuries ago, but reborn within the lifetime of men who are not yet in their old age. It is not fair to compare the progress of a country so young in its national life with a country like Great Britain, which has enjoyed centuries of stable government and constitutional liberty, or even with a country like our own which, in addition to unbounded natural resources, has for a century and a half had a comparatively pure national government, and an uninterrupted succession of patriotic and conscientious presidents.

When we remember the practical youth of Italy as a nation, when we recall the tremendous burden imposed by the former régime in the shape of high taxes, illiteracy and

(1) Robinson, T. H. - History of Western Europe, - p. 670-671.

constant struggle with the dominant church, it seems wonderful that the kingdom has made such rapid and substantial progress. Cities like Rome have been practically rebuilt. Miles of slums, as in Naples, have been abolished, though there are other miles waiting the destructive hand of enlightened progress. Tunnels have pierced the Alps. Railroads have gridironed the country, north and east and south and west. Tens of thousands of schools have been established. Marshes which have bred malaria for thousands of years have been drained. The Camorra and Mafia have been subdued. Canals have been dug and aqueducts built at tremendous cost. The Fascist government with Benito Mussolini at its helm has been very instrumental in bringing these conditions about and in keeping Italy among the five great powers of the world.

B:-Advancements and Drawbacks.

(a) Advancement of Northern and Central Italy.

Pronounced diversities still exist in provincial differences of occupation and degrees of progress. The north of Italy has long been the most progressive section through the comparative freedom of its institutions, the diversification of its industries and the spirit of its people. This division of the kingdom is notably active, industrious and prosperous. The latest exposition at Turin was a signal

illustration of the attainments of Italy in the leading industrial arts. Problems of the development of this progressive section are relatively insignificant. It is in Central and Southern Italy that the chief dragweights are encountered.

Compared with the South, Central Italy is already hopefully advanced. There is still too little variation of industry, but agriculture, the dominant industry, is prosecuted with high intelligence. The peasant farmer in Tuscany and largely in all Central Italy operates on the share or "mezzeria" system-dividing equally the products of his fields with his landlord. However, he is fast breaking away from the clutches of his superior. He comprehends fully the utility of the variation of crops. He raises wheat or other cereals, grapes and olives on the same section of land. He knows the capacity of his land thoroughly. He has commonly introduced irrigation where necessary. He is exceedingly capable in the conduct of his plantations and supplements his crop products by keeping pigs and poultry, breeding calves and sometimes rearing silkworms. The women of his family usually add to his income by spinning and plaiting straw.

(b) Drawbacks in Southern Italy.

In Southern Italy the diversification of industry

is, as yet, scarcely attempted and feeble at best. Agriculture is practically the sole reliance outside of the noxious sulphur mines of Sicily.

The prevailing system of operation of the land is of large estates cultivated by hired labor. These properties are usually minutely subdivided and sublet. In the greater part of this region wheat is almost the only product. Rent and taxation are very burdensome. Resort to mordern improvements is very rarely undertaken by landlords. The lot of both regular and irregular day laborers is miserable, and is often rendered appalling by the failure of the prevailing wheat crop or by the ravages of insects, disease or blight in the vineyards and olive groves.

C:-Economic and Industrial Developments.

Despite all the foregoing drawbacks, agriculture throughout Italy has been making certain progress. The use of artificial fertilizers is increasing. Variation and rotation of crops are extending. The export of agricultural products is advancing, though the temporary shock to the agrecultural industry through the enactment of French protective tariffs was greatly depressing.

"Nearly two million acres of malarious marsh lands have been cleared and rendered productive. An annual "Arbor Day" has been instituted, and the government is moving vigorously for the protection and increase of the forests maintaining

the essential water supplies. For the preservation of the vineyards from the ravages of the phyloxera, grafting from the immune grape stocks of California is now largely prosecuted. Thus drought and disease are now intelligently combated, and relief has even been obtained from the scourge of hail, so often destructive to the crops of northern Italy, by prodigious discharges of pyrite powder, converting the freezing drops to fine snow or sleet.

"The remarkable advance of all manufacturing industries in northern Italy is moreover enriching and stimulating to the kingdom as a whole. It is expanding the home market for agricultural produce and promoting its diversification. The range of manufacturing establishments is also further progressing down the peninsula into central and even southern Italy. The cotton industry has advanced remarkably, expanding almost seven-fold from 1875 to 1905. Woolen manufactures are also profitably progressing, and surprising attainments have been reached in the development of iron and steel industries and the extension of electric plants of all kinds. From the production and application of electric force, the available water powers of Italian rivers have already done much to offset the lack of coal fields. No line of development is more congenial to Italian genius or commands more ready public appreciation.

"Italy was among the first in Europe to undertake the

construction and operation of electric railways. The Lugano line was operated with electrical equipment over part of its route as early as 1890. Now two other roads, the Lecco railway and the Varese railway, use electricity for their regular service, and other electric lines are in course of construction. The application to the movement of heavy traffic is particularly favored, and it is reasonable to expect progressive advances along this line of transportation.

"Shipbuilding is actively prosecuted also. The steamers operated as Italian lines have more than doubled in number within the past twenty years, and all the vessels for these lines are now built in Italian ports. The palatial Rex is today one of the most modern and luxurious liners cruising the Atlantic with the Italian flag.

"The development of the mineral wealth of the kingdom is beginning to keep pace with the advances of its manufactures and commerce. Sardinia and Elba, from the days of the old Roman Empire, have been known to be rich in iron, lead, and zinc, and the sulpher mines of Sicily and the Romagna have been worked from time immemorial. The province of Grosseto has large deposits of iron ore and cinnabar, and the known occurences of copper, manganese and antimony in various parts of the country point to the practicability of extending developments. More than fifteen hundred mines

are now in active operation, tripling the number reported in the first census after the unification of the kingdom, and the value of their output has risen to over $20,000,000.

"The total value of the paid-up capital of railways, shipping companies, commercial and manufacturing establishments in the year 1904 is reckoned to be approximately four hundred million of dollars, showing that this aggregate capital had doubled since the unification of the kingdom.

"The standards of living have risen, too, throughout the country; wages have advanced on an average, at least, one-third; food is more plentiful; clothes are better, and both food and clothing are cheaper. The poverty of the people has not been a measure of their thrift, but of their opportunities. This is clearly demonstrated in the remarkable expansion of savings banks. The first savings bank in Italy was opened in 1832, but it is only within the last twenty or thirty years that its multiplication was largely practicable. In 1900 the Italian savings banks, including those of the Post Office, numbering over five thousand, had aggregate deposits approximating four hundred million dollars. The number of depositors in 1900 was five million. In addition to these are the people's banks, loaning money at low rates of interest to their shareholders, chiefly small business and peasant proprietors.

"Co-operative, mutual aid and insurance societies have also multiplied very rapidly, and their obvious benefits have been a great stimulus to the extension of like societies among the Italians in America, a most substantial guaranty against the burdening of our public charitable institutions." (1)

D:-Intellectual Life.

In attempting to become better acquainted with the Italian, it is important to know something about the intellectual life of the country from which he comes. It is true that there are not many poets or painters or sculptors in the steerage accomodation of the Atlantic liners, and few "mute, inglorious Miltons" probably step ashore at Ellis Island. Nevertheless, in this matter, as in all others, "the fountain-head affects the stream, that flows from it," and, if the Italian nature is of the stuff of which poets and artists are made, we may well believe that some beautiful blossoms will, in time, appear upon the humblest scions of this stock.

We need not go back to ancient times to prove the literary and artistic nature of the Italians, for it may be said that since the days of Virgil and Horace, of Salust and Cicero, or even since the times of Dante and Raphael and Michael Angelo, there have been so many changes in the

(1) Lord, Trenor, and Barrows. - Italians in America - p. 32-35.

character and ideals of the Italians, and so much new blood has been infused into the body politic that their genius could hardly affect the emigrant of today. So we will confine this particular phase of the chapter to a few brief allusions to the intellectual life in Italy, as manifested in recent years.

(a) - Literature.

Modern Italian literature has been handicapped by more than one weight, and it is the more wonderful that it has made and is making, for itself, a place of no mean importance. As in our own country, Italy, during the last fifty years, has called for men of action rather than for men of the study and the cloister. The pick and the shovel, the steam engine and the electric drill have been more in evidence in modern Italy, as in America, than the pen and the artists' brush and palette.

"As the authors of "Italy To-day" assert, Literary Italian is and always has been a conventional language, nowhere spoken as a living tongue, nowhere a medium for the expression of intimate realities of life. It, therefore, lacks that vivifying contact with popular sentiment and activity so essential to a great national literature. I give this opinion for what it is worth, and have little doubt that other authors equally well informed would say that

much Italian literature of the last decade or two speaks the living tongue of the living people. But these authors are undoubtedly correct when they say, "Italians, by the exigencies of their national condition, and by the predominant tone of their minds, have been directed to economic and social studies, rather than to letters--------. There is an amazing output of economic, social and scientific literature. Many of its exponents are men of European fame: Lombroso in criminology, Grasse in biology, Loris in economics, Villari in history, are but a few.

"When we remember that the reading public for pure literature in Italy is as yet comparatively limited, and that few poets or novelists could here live by their pens, the amount of good literature which is produced is the more remarkable. D'Annunzio is perhaps the Italian writer best known outside of Italy.

"Dr. Amici's vividly picturesque books of travel are known to many American authors, and his stories are fascinating, though florid in their style.

"Antonie Fogozzaro is thought by many to stand at the head of Italian authors, at least of the writers of fiction, and, unlike D'Annunzio's, his work has a healthy and wholesome moral tone. He is a force that makes for strength, sanity, and righteousness." (1)

(1) Clark, F. E. - Italians in Their Old Homes and Their New, - pp. 64-66.

It is useless even to mention the names of all prominent Italian authors in this brief phase of the chapter. We could go on with Alexander Manzone, Giacomo Leopardi, Giovinni Berchet, Gabriel Rossetti and others, but a work of this sort does not require that this should be done, for my purpose is simply to show that the modern Italian character is still informed with the literary spirit.

(b) Music.

If modern Italy has been surpassed by other nations in the realm of polite literature, she has certainly surpassed others as far in the genius of her musical composers. Rossini, Bellini, Conizetti, and Verdi, are four names any one of which would have brought glory to the nation. Every musician and lover of music knows their names, and realizes something of the debt of gratitude which, because of their genius and industry, America and other nations owe to Italy. "Who will ever forget such musical artists as Caruso, Galli-Curci, and Tetrazzini? It is extremely doubtful if grand opera in this country would exist without the Italian singers, to say nothing of our orchestras and conductors." (1) And who has not heard of Puccini, Mascagni and Toscannini and their contributions?

(c) The Arts

The artistic sense among modern Italians is

(1) Dow, Grove Samuel, - Society and its Problems, - p. 117.

very much weaker than it was among their ancestors but it is not unlikely that with such forerunners as Michael Angelo, Leonardo Da Vinci and Titian, it will remain in the limelight for some time to come.

"There is, however, some excuse for this lag of the artistic sense. Italians are aware that, as a modern nation, they have still much progress to make. They are striving to go forward, to increase their wealth and their industries; but they see that foreigners for the most part look upon them merely as historical curiosities. Many foreigners will spend months admiring Roman ruins, but look upon the natives with undisguised contempt. The Italians, of course, resent this, and, conscious as they are of their own shortcomings as a people, they are anxious to put antiquity behind them and to bring their country up to date. Now that some real progress has been made, a few are beginning to feel that they can devote themselves to art without being mere showmen." (1)

It is natural to suppose that the sculptor's art would flourish in Italy, among a people who have constantly before them many of the great works of antiquity. We are not disappointed for when we think of Antonio Canova, who belonged to the first half of the nineteenth century, and has been called "the prince of sculptors, and the reformer of

(1) Villari, Luigi, - Italian Life in Town and Country, - p. 299.

art in Italy," and of Vincenzo Vela, the greatest sculptor of the last half of the century, we realize that the ancient art is not lost. The world's greatest sculptors; among them the greatest of the last century, Thorwaldsen, have gone to Italy, not only to seek inspiration and to perfect their art, but because of the education Italy has given to her artistic sons, many of whom have spent their lives in their adopted land.

In sciences allied to art Italy has always taken a first rank, especially in astronomy and the application of electricity. Many important discoveries in the starry heavens are due to Italians, and we need only mention the names of Marconi and Galileo to recall some of the startling scientific achievements of the past.

(d) Education

General education has advanced notably also, though in parts of the kingdom it is still regretably backward. "Still the percentage of illiteracy had fallen from fifty-seven per cent in 1871 to thirty-seven per cent in 1896." (1) Schevill, in his "History of Europe" reports that, "on the eve of the World War illiteracy in the northern provinces had been cut down to twenty-five per cent of the population, while in the south something more than fifty per cent of the people had not yet learned to read and

(1) Villari, Luigi, - Italian Life in Town and Country - p. 194.

write." (1) The decrease of illiteracy is due partly to military service, as all illiterate conscripts learn to read and write while under arms. Finally, Dr. Marraro, a member of the faculty of Columbia University, in an investigation made during 1930-1931, reports: "illiteracy statistics of estimates made in 1927 showed that the percentage had been reduced to about 21 per cent." (2)

1. Elementary - "The first stage in the educational ladder is the elementary school. In every one of the 8262 communes of the kingdom there has to be one or more communal elementary schools, or private ones which meet certain requirements. There are over fifty thousand communal and nine thousand private schools. There are five standards of elementary education, the first three of which are obligatory; but parents need not send their children to school if they have them taught privately by a competent person. Religious instruction is not obligatory, and the local authorities need not provide it unless the parents demand it; but, as a matter of fact, in six thousand communes religious history and the catechism are taught by thirty thousand teachers, of whom three thousand are ecclesiastics. There is now less feeling against religious instruction than formerly; it is generally accepted as a matter of course.

(1) Schevill, Ferdinand, - A History of Europe, - p. 602.
(2) Marraro, Howard - "The New Education in Italy" - Current History - Feb. 1933 - p. 572.

"The state of the elementary schools is deplorable in most of the communes. The buildings are unsanitary and overcrowded, there are few maps or specimens for object lessons, and everything is insufficient, but since the new Fascist regime Mussolini has improved these conditions considerably.

"There are fifty-two thousand elementary school teachers in all. Their life is a very hard one, and their salaries are miserably inadequate. They vary from twenty-eight to fifty-three lire a year for men, and from twenty-two to forty-two lire for women, (in 1900) according to the size of the commune. But in the rural communes of less than five hundred inhabitants there is no minimum salary. The teachers are educated in special training colleges, and mostly belong to the lower middle class, but many are children of domestic servants, peasants, and artisans. Most of them are honest and high-principled persons, who make every effort, with scanty means, insufficient education, and insufficient ability, to do their duty." (1)

2. Secondary - "The secondary schools are of two kinds, classical and technical, The former are divided into "gennasii" and "licei". The curriculum in the "ginnasio" lasts five years (from the age of ten or eleven to fifteen or sixteen", that of the "liceo" three years more. The subjects taught are Italian literature, Latin, Greek, history and geog-

(1) Villari, Luigi, - Italian Life in Country and Town, - p. ~~1~~ 239.

raphy, mathematics (up to trigonometry), and the elements of natural science and philosophy. Modern languages are almost neglected; a little French is taught in the "ginnasio" and German may be substituted for Greek in two or three "licei". At the end of every year there is an examination in the subjects studied. These examinations are not very difficult, as dictionaries may be used for the written papers, and no translation at sight is required. Moreover, all sorts of illicit dodges are freely resorted to to obtain outside assistance, sometimes with success. The final examinations are practically the entrance examinations to the university which are uniform for the whole of Italy and are prepared by the Minister of Education.

"The technical schools and institutions provide a modern education--modern languages, arithmetic, book-keeping, algebra, and geometry, drawing, history, and geography. The course lasts seven years, with annual examinations, as at the classical schools. The subjects are not taught badly in the schools. There are many good teachers, but the system is radically wrong. The examinations by no means represent the results achieved, and too much orthodoxy is demended. There are certain set ideas on every subject, from which it is heresy to dissent. Thus a boy is not taught to use his own judgment with regard to the authors studied, but is told that he <u>must</u> admire a certain one more than an-

other.

"Physical punishment has long been abolished, and the very idea of it is regarded as barbarous. The only forms of chastisement are expulsion or bad marks. The consequence of having bad marks is that the pupil is disqualified for the July examination, and so has one chance the less of passing into the next form. Boys who study at home or at private schools must go up for some of the public examinations if they wish to enter the university; this course is often followed in the case of the children of well-to-do parents.

"Physical exercise is very much neglected in the schools. There are gymnastic classes twice a week, and occasional country walks. Such athletic sports as Italians indulge in have no connection whatever with school life." (1) To remedy this deplorable state of physical education the Facist government, in December, 1923, established the Ente Nazionale per l'Educazione Fisica, and organization which had full charge of the physical training in the schools. But because of insufficient resources the results were not satisfactory, and in October, 1927, the Ente was merged with the Opera Nazionale Balilla for Physical Education, which the government had established in April, 1926. The Balilla organization was placed under the direct supervision of the head of

(1) Villari, Luigi, - Italian Life in Country and Town, - p. 239.

the Ministry of National Education. The organization, with headquarters in Rome, carries out its funcions through the medium of the Ballilla for boys from eight to fourteen years of age, the Avanguardisti for boys from fourteen to eighteen years of age and the Piccole Italiane and Giovani Italiane for little and young Italian girls. The organization is maintained by members' subscriptions, by bequests and donations and by appropriations from the budgets of the Ministries of the Interior, Education and Corporations." (1) The organization is also responsible for many of the activities which in America and in other countries are conducted by the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the Camp Fire Girls and similar organizations whose purpose is general character training and civic education.

"The government schools, both classical and technical, are with few exceptions, day schools. The pupils attend the classes every day only to hear lectures, repeat their lessons, and show their written exercises. No work is actually done in the school itself. School hours are usually from eight or nine to eleven or twelve A. M. and from one or two to three or four P. M.; two days a week are half holidays. Attendance is rigorously insisted upon, and a boy who does not answer to the roll-call at the beginning of each lesson must bring a letter from his parents the next time he appears

(1) Marraro, Howard, - "The New Education in Italy" - Current History - Feb. 1933 -p. 574.

explaining his absence; otherwise he will not be admitted.

"Secondary education is not absolutely free, but the fees are very low, ranging from four to six lire annually, and even from these a boy of exceptional diligence who can prove that his parents are unable to pay them may be exempted. A small number of aristocratic families send their children to the public school; the majority prefer to give them a purely home education because they think schools are filled with "common" students. While those that do send their children to the "ginnasii" and "licei" take good care that they do not mix too freely with boys of lower social status." (1)

3. Universities:- Italy is endowed with twenty-one universities. Of these, seventeen are under the direct control of the government, while four are the so-called free universities; there are in addition the College of Superior Studies at Florence and the Milan Academy, and certain schools have university classes attached to them. The universities arose when Italy was divided into separate states, and each princeling wished his own capital to become a center of learning. The universities at Salerno, Bologna and Reggio date back to the beginning of the twelfth century, followed by Vicinza, Padua, Naples in the thirteenth century, and Rome, Pisa, Florence, and others in the succeeding early

(1) Villari, Luigi, - Italian Life in Town and Country, p. - 241-242.

centuries. Their number is now far in excess of the requirements of the population; but the government has never had the courage to suppress even the most uniportant ones, for fear of offending local susceptibilities.

The aspirant to universities honors must first present a certificate that he has passed his final school examinations, and pay his entrance fee (which may be remitted in the case of very poor students). The total fees range from eighteen to thirty-four lires for the whole university career, but are paid in separate instalments. There are four faculties: classics and philosophy, law, medicine, and mathematics and science. The subjects are mostly of a theoretical nature, and so extra reading is necessary; a student who learns his notes by heart is sure to pass with full marks.

The ties between the students and the university are the loosest, and the supervision over study is nil. While we find discipline utterely inadequate. If a professor is too severe in the examinations, too strict in exacting attendance, or is otherwise unpopular, riots are apt to break out. The root of evil lies in the examination system itself. The only punishment which can be inflicted is to suspend the ringleader for a year.

"A consequence of cheap higher education is the vast and everincreasing army of the educated unemployed (called

"spostati"). Every year a large number of graduates in law, medicine, and science are turned out into the world to enter a profession in which there are no vacancies for them. Their education has unfitted them for useful work without enabling them to succeed in the liberal profession. Many become lawyers without clients, doctors without patients, journalists without readers, professors without pupils. Some succeed in getting a little work by underselling abler men, thus lowering the already low professional incomes; others lead idle and vicious lives for a time, and drift into socialism and anarchism in northern Italy, or into the Mafia and the Cammorra in the south. With the advent of Mussolini the two latter organizations have been completely demolished.

"The most miserably paid "impiegato" or the most unsuccessful professional man regards himself as superior to the most prosperous tradesman or skilled mechanic. In the south this feeling is peculiarly strong; but in the north there is some slight improvement, and the development of business has attracted a certain proportion of the youth of the country. But if substantial progress is to be made, the system of education must be thoroughly reformed, the classical schools and universities made better and more expensive, technical education rendered more thorough and ef-

ficient, examinations more difficult, the discipline stricter, and all schools must become educational establishments, and not merely teaching agencies." (1)

With the advent of the Fascist government it is very likely that Italian education is distined for many improved conditions. "To support educational undertakings the Fascist Government has gradually increased the appropriations for the Ministry of National Education. From a total of 975, 095,000 lire in 1923 they rose to 1,434,501,000 for the fiscal year 1929-30, an increase of 47 per cent. This increase becomes all the more significant when it is remembered that the total Italian budget was reduced fifteen per cent during this period." (2) Indeed, one of the great achievements of the first decade of Fascist rule in Italy has been the overhauling of the nation's educational system by means of many reforms. They have been far-reaching. It is enough to read the history of Italy since 1815 to regard with intense sympathy her struggle for nationhood. After fighting for the right to become a united nation for more than fifty years she began her effort to build a nation from a heterogeneous population that was more than 75 per cent illiterate, with no money, no industry, no reilroads, and very limited natural resources. In spite of the shock of the World War and the series of economic and social disturbances which followed,

(1) Villari, Luigi, - Italian Life in Country and Town, - p. 253-255.
(2) Marraro, Howard, - "The New Education in Italy" - Current History - p. 572.

the Italians have reduced illiteracy to 21 per cent, and they have created a school system which endows the new generation with energy of thought and will, and seeks to develop a culture that truly represents the manifold powers of the Italian race.

Thus the inheritance and progress of Italy. It is hoped that this account of the Italian's history and his achievements in the past will aid the reader to better understand and appreciate his present viewpoints. We must not forget that his is practically a new nation. Scarcely more than seventy years ago Italy did not exist, the Italian Peninsula was occupied by a number of warring, turbulent, mutually jealous and suspicious states, and as a result of this state of practical anarchy; ignorance, violence and degradation followed. Painfully toiling upward under her inherited burden over an untried and perplexing path her progress has been truly remarkable and full of promise for her future. A country, which in less than three-quarters of a century can make out of a conglomerate mass of hostile elements a first-class, flourishing European Power, must possess citizens of no mean qualities of heart and mind. Still, after less than two generations of freedon and unity, we cannot expect perfection either in the nation or in the individuals who compose it.

CHAPTER II

CAUSES OF ITALIAN EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

A:-Causes Due to Nature.

Nature has not been very kind to Italy and the Italians. She has not endowed her with favorable climatic conditions, fertile soil, important natural resources, navigable rivers, and other primary requisites which are essential in the assurance of a nation's success. As a result, agriculture, manufacturing, and other industries have not flourished very rapidly or not, at least, until man has overcome some of these natural factors.

Space does not permit me to delve into a detailed account of these natural requisites but it is known, that Italy, as a whole, has been blessed with very few of them. The main handicaps of Italy will only thus be discussed.

(a) Rainfall - Agriculture, one of the most important if not the most important industry of any nation's development has been severely handicapped. The rainfall of Italy is so slight and virtually absent for such long intervals of time that the richest of soils would produce scantily. "In some years, the summer is almost devoid of rainfall, and the drought may endure for seven months. Though the temperature is seldom higher than during the hot days of a Massachusetts summer, the heat is recurringly great day

after day. Whatever rain falls, therefore, quickly evaporates. Within sight of the blue sea the grass of Sicily is a lifeless brown and the road a powder of white. In many regions it is necessary to go long distances to procure drinking water, and a spring rents for a high sum. (I have heard native Italians speak of communities where pure drinking water is much more highly prized than grape wine of good quality). The range of products for this climate is narrow. Of most crops, especially the herbaceous, it is foreordained that their success will be mediocre. The utility of fertilizer is greatly diminished by an insufficiency of water. Grazing and dairying cannot thrive. Whereas, in the north of Italy the field that has yielded its harvest of grain becomes pasture for cattle, plant growth in the south ceases after the crop has been gathered; at best a few goats and sheep may graze. In turn there is a deficiency of animal manure, and of animals for draft purposes as well.

"How vitally the aridity of the climate has involved the entire scheme of land ownership has never been sufficiently recognized. When, in the nineties, an agrarian agitation took the shape of a demand for the division of the latifundia, the want of rains and the scarcity of flowing water thus potently and invincibly influenced the entire agrarian economy of Sicily. In the past, certainly, the aridity of

the southern climate has been a heavy impediment in the way of a fortunate social economy." (1)

(b)- Malaria - "Malaria has ruled in Italy from time immemorial, sustained by the natural conditions of soil and drainage, and aggravated by the consequences of deforestation. It has touched or threatened the homes of millions. Not only has it, in a direct way, hindered the daily work of agreculture, but it has even influenced the very form of agriculture. It stands forth, in truth, as one of the prime forces that have made for emigration from Italy.

"As late as in the year 1887, twenty-one thousand persons died of malaria in Italy. Steadily thereafter the number declined, till, in 1912, it but little exceeded thirty-one hundred. In 1902 illnessess began to be reported officially: after reaching a high point of 323,000 in 1905, they have of late years fallen under 200,000. In discussing the causes of emigration these early figures are significant and the evil which they disclose is far-reaching." (2)

(c)-Earthquakes - The frequent earthquakes that have occured in the Italian Peninsula have not indeed, assisted in the progress of the luckless Italians. "To indicate (by way of example) the recent earthquakes of the province of Calabria alone: those of 1854, 1870, 1894, 1905, 1907, and,

(1) Foerster, Robert, - Italian Emigration of Our Time, - p. 51.
(2) Foerster, Robert, - Italian Emigration of Our Time, - p. 59-60.

worst of all, 1908, accomplished a disheartening round of distruction of life and property. Today, a little more than twenty years after the demolition of Messina, the city, its little wooden suburb notwithstanding, still is a pile of ruins.

"Disaster to the crop of a single season is of course the least important effect of earthquakes upon economic activities. The general destruction of capital is pervasive. Of all consequences however the most serious is probably psychological, the creation of a mood of helplessness, or even worse, of apathy, restraining at once the impulse to progress and the energies needed for accomplishment." (1)

B:-Lack of Opportunities for Subsistence.

With the above natural handicaps bestowed upon Italy one does not find it difficult to conclude that the Italians have found means of subsistence hard to obtain. In his book on "Italians inAmerica", Eliot Lord stated that "the main underlying cause inciting emigration was the pressure of population upon the means of subsistence. In spite of despotic oppression, foreign invasion and internal dissension, the population of Italy at the time of the unification was nearly double what it was at the beginning of the eighteenth century. The census of 1881 showed a population of 257 to the square mile, and this was obviously fast advancing; for,

(1) Foerster, Robert, - Italian Emigration of Our Times, - p. 63.

twenty years later, in spite of the great efflux, the population had increased to 32,475,253, or 294 to the square mile." (1) It is no wonder then that from this time on the Italians began to emigrate in large numbers.

C:-Lack of Diversification and Development of Industries.

Recalling the natural handicaps at the beginning of this chapter and adding to them the increase of population above, it becomes evident that a lack of diversification of industries was brought about.

Quoting Lord again, "except in the Northern Provinces there was no industry deserving the name outside of agriculture, and that pursued in a fashion little changed since the days of the Medici. Less than fifty years ago there was not a railroad in Sicily, and in all the Neapolitan provinces the total length of railways was a scant one hundred and fourteen miles. Tuscany had only 248 miles of railway at the opening of the year 1860; Lombardy, 100 miles less; and even in the comparatively thriving provinces of Piedmont and Liguria the extent of railways was then only 744 miles. Postal telegraph service was equally backward; and in Lower Italy there was not even a current of trade." (2)

D:-Political and Economic Maladjustments.

So grave has been the political ans economic maladjust-

(1) Lord, Trenor, Barrows, - Italians in America, - p. 40.
(2) Lord, Trenor, Barrows, - Italians in America, - p. 40-41.

ments which have ruled Italy, particularly the south, that one need not long ask why it should resort to emigration. Its inhabitants have long suffered under a government which they could not call their own. They have never participated, to a large extent, in the political affairs of their country. "Illiteracy has been (until very lately) a sufficient ground for exclusion from the electoral lists, and in Baslicata the peasants have usually made up only one-tenth to one-third of the names of these lists, and rarely have attained one-half. The voters have taken a very mild interest in public affairs, and commonly vote according to instructions, venality being frequent and often overt. The "galantuomi", a group of gentlemen of leisure, exercised control of the communes and are preoccupied to keep the peasants dependent and uneducated." (1)

(a) - Land Monoply - The monoply of the land in the hands of aristocratic proprietors has been a discouraging obstacle to the advancement of the condition of the people in the agricultural districts by a distribution of the land among the peasant proprietary. Even when small holdings were secured independently in exceptional cases, they could hardly be maintained under a burden of taxation from which the poorest landholder could obtain no relief. There was no exemption for any kind of real estate, and the weight of

(1) Foerster, Robert, - Italian Emigration of our Times, - p. 100.

taxation, even after the reconstruction of Italy, continued to fall disproportionately on the agricultural sections.

(b) - Taxation - Moreover, the taxes were so assessed that the small landholder feared to improve his estate lest the tax should be raised exorbitantly. The so-called family tax, imposed by the communes, was particularly obnoxious from the inquisition of its conduct and its varying with localities and individual official judgment, certainly unequal and often corrupt or unfair. No form of taxation is more irritating than one that pries into a household through official inspectors, counting rooms, examining furniture and carpets, then going through the stable and farmyard and making a tally and valuation of the live stock of every description without passing over even a few clucking hens, embracing the harness and tools and equipment of every description, and then checking up the returns by cross-questioning servants and neighbors. In many communes of Southern Italy, the discrimination appears to be peculiarly grinding, as the landlord's saddle horse is exempt, while a tax is assessed on the peasant's donkey.

"Since the unification of Italy the national administration has unquestionably been making truly patriotic efforts to deal adequately with existing conditions and provide methods of relief, but it has been laboring under a perplexing

strain. Relief from the dragweight of taxation was seemingly essential to a hopeful advance in Central and Southern Italy, at least; but, in spite of the intelligently liberal policy of the Ministry, adequate relief has not yet been effected. This is largely owing to what is esteemed the necessity of maintaining military armaments on land and sea rivalling the establishments of the greater nations of Europe. To this drain has been coupled the extraordinary expenses entailed by a progressive policy of internal development which, in part, has been charged with extravagance and misjudgment. These developments necessarily overran for the time the immediate returns of income, so that both the military and civil policy have made the taxation of the kingdom exceedingly burdensome." (1)

(c) - Depression of Agricultural Industries - Another outstanding cause of emigration from Italy has been a depression of the agricultural industries. Lord has furnished some significant figures and facts in reference to this particular cause.

"Early in 1903", he says, "it was reported that 908 provinces in Italy had been invaded by the phylloxera, and that not less than 750,000 acres of vineland had been entirely destroyed. This insect entered Italy first in 1879, and the extent of its devastation is attributed to the fact

(1) Lord, Trenor, Barrows, - Italians in America, - pp - 43-44.

that it has not been repressed as effectively by the introduction of American grafts. When the insect stings as American vine or one protected by grafting, the opening immediately fills with sap and closes leaving no wound. Hence it is now deemed essential to protection against this insect in Europe that the vine shall be Americanized, and the California grafts are generally preferred.

"The citrus fruit plantations have been suffering from the depression for which there is no immediate prospect of relief. It was reported last year that lemons were hard to market at three lire (58 cents) per thousand. Through immense mass meetings, the government had been importuned to obtaim favorable treatment of citrus products in new commercial conventions and to obtain, if practicable, better tariff rates from the United States and Russia. There was also an insistent pressure for the abolition of the present octroi tax on fruit.

"The province of Piedmont, the most productive cocoon section of the kingdom, showed the crop for 1903 to be only one-third of the average, owing to the late frost which kept the mulberry trees almost leafless. In default of the natural food of the silkworm, other expedients were tried to keep the worms alive, but none succeeded, so that the disaster was very grievous. The failure of this crop, and the injury of the wheat, grape and other crops of the province

by the frost and prolonged rain were so discouraging to the peasants that a great increase in emigration occurred in the succeeding years." (1)

(d) - Wages - In his "Italians in Their Old Homes and Their New," F. E. Clark states that he has statistics which show, "the wages in North Italy, where wages were the highest before the war, varied from about sixty-four cents to a dollar and a half a day. Boiler-makers could earn from sixty cents to nearly a dollar and a half. The highest wages paid to firemen were something less than a dollar a day. Skilled master mechanics could earn as much as $1.60, while unskilled laborers had to be content with sixty-nine cents a day." (2)

This was in the north where wages were higher than in any other part of Italy. Men laboring in the treacherous sulpher mines of Sicily were fortunate if they earned sixty cents a day, while in some of the mines they had to take there pay in produce rather than in cash, which of course allowed another margin of profit to the employer and a margin of loss for the employee.

"The pay of women in Italy, for the same hours and the same amount of work, was less than that of men, though the men's pay was pitiable enough. Fifty cents a day would have been considered good pay in a cotton mill for the ordinary

(1) Lord, Trenor, Barrows, - Italians in America - pp.- 46-47.
(2) Clark, F. E., - Italians in Their Old Homes and Their New, - p. - 75.

workman, and twenty-five for the woman worker, though in some cases she might have received as much as thirty or thiry-five cents. This meant for a day of ten hours, as a rule." (1)

The wages of the agricultural laborers, however, are of greatest interest to us than those of any other class, since it is from their ranks, largely, that the Italian Americans are recruited.

"It is refreshing to know that the wages of such laborers had increased within the twenty years before 1914 from fifty to one hundred and fifty per cent. But the reader will ask himself, what must they have been in the earlier days? when he learns that the laborer before the war was earning less than fifty cents a day, while the somen earned less than twenty-five cents, and boys were happy if they found twelve or fifteen cents jingling in their pockets at the end of a day's work. In the region around Naples, the average pay was about thirty-five cents for the men, and half as much for the women, while in Sicily about the same munificient wage was expected.

"But what would the total income of a man with a family to support amount to? It must be remembered that families are by no means small in Italy, four or five children, perhaps, being the average, while the number often runs up to

(1) Clark, F. E., - Italians in Their Old Homes andin Their New, - pp. - 76-77.

a dozen or more. The official statistics of agricultural labor, published in Rome a few years ago, gave the highest total average annual income of men at $106.00. This was in Piedmont, whereas in the Marches the average income for the whole year was only $52.00 for the husband and father. The wife and mother and children might among them, very likely in many instances have, doubled this amount.

"These figures alone will explain why more than 300,000 Italians sailed yearly before the war to the United States and other tens of thousands for Argentina and Brazil." (1)

We must also take into account the fact that the Italian can buy less in Italy than in most other lands for the same amount of money. No wonder that the farm laborer, looking at his hard-earned fifty cents, which was all that ten or twelve hours of back-breaking work with pick and hoe had given him, sadly contrasted this meager pittance with the two to four dollars a day which his brother, or his uncle or his cousin was earning on an American railway, or in blasting out an American tunnel.

(1) Clark, F. E. - Italians in Their Old Homes and Their New, - pp. - 76-77.

CHAPTER III

ITALIAN IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES

A:-Recency of the Italian Wave.

"Italian immigration is the most recent of all the racial waves that have struck the shores of the United States, as it has been the most unexpected and the most numerous. The Italian-born population of the United States in 1890 was only one-seventh of what it was in 1910 and about one-ninth of what it is today." (1)

It is, in fact, less than a single generation since the first great stream of Italian immigration began. In this there was a striking parallel of character with nearly every other great immigration movement that this country has experienced. The first comers were laborers, crowded out of the teeming home nest, and offering their brawn to build our public works.

From the hill farms of Calabria and Sicily a simple rural population was transplanted to our crowded cities and isolated railway camps. They were not acquainted with the language of their new country, and equally ignorant of its customs and ideals. Their own womankind had been left behind and they were deprived of the regulating home influences. For sheer protection and society they herded together in colonies made suspicious of the intruder by the unscrupu-

(1) Stella, A., - Some Aspects of Italian Immigration, - p. - 12.

lous politicians and exploiters who preyed upon them. But even under these adverse conditions, our national prejudice was overcome. The tireless industry, the frugality and the thrigt of this new race thrust themselves into the American consciousness.

Then came the broadening and newer Italian exodus. Following the laborer from the south of Italy, the skilled artisan, the merchant, the scholar, the artist of the northern provinces, swept into this country, suffusing the whole stream of immigration with a new light.

Since all this has taken place within a single generation it is not surprising, therefore, that of the various immigrant racial groups the Italians should be the least Americanized and the least understood by the American people.

B:-Mentality and Intelligence.

"The "intelligence tests" applied to the United States Army recruits may have given a "black eye" to the foreign-born of south eastern Europe", (1) but their conclusions and the validity of the method used have been contested by leading psychologists. According to these tests, the Italians occupy one of the lowest grades in the intelligence scales.

"The intelligence of an individual cannot be gauged by

(1) Sweeney, Authur, - Mental Tests for Immigrants, North American Review- May, 1922. - p. 600.

his relative ability to make a certain number of dots in prescribed positions in a definite length of time. A nimble ten-year-old might make a perfect score, while a distinquished scholar was fumbling feebly with the pencil. One of the so-called tests for the feeble-minded has been tried on numerous persons, who have otherwise demonstrated their possession of a high order of intellectual ability, with ludicrously humiliating results.

"The different results from the performance of foreign-born and natives, between Mediterranean, Alpines and Nordic can be explained on the difference of language and environment. Binet's tests preduced different results in Africa, in China, in Colombia, but where conditions of language and environment were similar, results were similar. Binet said: 'A Frenchman may be normal in a rural community and feebleminded in Paris'." (1)

If the Chinese would formulate an "intelligence test" for Europeans or Americans, our average rating would no doubt be quite low when compared with that of the Chinese themselves. What are we to expect therefore, from a poor European peasant, dazed by his arrival in a strange country and frightened by an examination which may mean ultimate exclusion and deportation, who is shown strange cubes and old-fashioned English school-book pictures and is cross-examined

(1) Stella, A., - Some Aspects of Italian Immigration - p. 41-42.

by a mentality so different from his own?

"Another grave error in the army tests is the diversity of number of foreign-born examined, ranging from 4,000 Italians, to 411 from England, and 140 from Sweden and Holland. To go from large numbers to small or vice-versa, is a process likely to be erroneous in the logic of statistics. Even accepting, for the sake of argument, the results of the army tests, it is absurd to apply them to the races where the foreign-born soldiers come from.

"In any case the army tests are deprived of all scientific value when applied to the three main races of Europe, because no anthropologic and anthropometric study was made of the foreign-born soldiers examined, and therefore no scientific deductions can be drawn from their loudly proclaimed results.

"After all, the best test of a people's intelligence is the history of the peoples themselves. Sociologists should be anxious only as intelligence translates itself into life.

"The history of Italy from the beginning of Rome to the Rennaissance, from the Renaissance to the recent Victory of Vittorio Veneto, with its long list of immortal names in every branch of human achievement, stands to show a people always on the ascent, never declining. What is more important from the point of view of eugenics and racial superiori-

ty is the fact that Italy has not produced only "a small group of selected superior intelligence,' but the bulk of its population shows and exceptionally high average intelligence." (1)

Italy's history rather conclusively proves its inheritance of stable mental abilities, and if general intelligence tests reveal a given level of intelligence in an immigrant group, may we not assume that we can predict something of the mental endowment which such a group will add to the future mixtures with other racial groups?

Certainly, from the prognostic record of inheritance, not from the record of the army tests.

Dr. Stella, in his chapter on "Mentality" also rather conclusively proves that the mentality of Italian children is, on the whole, of a good standard. He has procured letters from many schoolmen to verify this fact. An example is the letter received from the principal of the Washington Irving High School in New York City who reports: "the results of the Haggerty Intelligence Tests given here last June show that in a group of 42 Italian children the Intelligent Quotients were as follows:

2	superior
34	average
6	dull
	none very dull." (2)

(1) Stella, A., - Some Aspects of Italian Immigration - pp. 40-49.

(2) Stella, A., - Some Aspects of Italian Immigration - pp. 50.

(a) - Illiteracy -- Illiteracy is probably the most frequent charge made against the Italian. "If, however, one compares Italy's literacy status during the past few decades with the condition that prevailed before the political unity of the Kingdom was accomplished, one sees that the Italian people themselves should not be reproached for a condition created by those who governed Italy before 1870.

"In 1872 the percentage of illiterates was 68.8%, and in 1901 it was reduced to 48.5%, in 1911 to 37.6% and although no official figures are yet available, it is estimated at 23.0% in 1922. A more rapid rate of decrease cannot be hoped for, as illiteracy can be eliminated only through the education of the younger generations and the gradual disappearance of the older people for whom such few educational opportunities were available in their youth.

"The United States Census of 1910 (Vol. III, p. 17) presents an interesting comparative table on illiteracy in the United States:

Total illiteracy in the United States	6.0%
White of American parentage	2.5%
White natives of foreign or mixed parentage	0.8%
Foreign-born whites	13.1%
Negroes	22.9%

"At the present rate of decrease, the educational level of the lower Italian classes will have reached the average level of the other European countries by 1940. The average

Italian emigrant, representing largely the younger generation, will reach this level at an even earlier date, as indicated by the Bureau of Immigration records, which shows for 1921 - 1922 only 6% of illiteracy among Italian immigrants." (1)

"The 1920 Census gives striking evidence of the fact that immigrant population of the United States appreciates American educational opportunities and is quick to take advantage of them. Of the 13,497,886 foreign-born white persons ten years of age and over in the United States, 13.1 per cent were illiterate. Of the second generation, however, that is, all persons (16,784,299) one or both whose parents were foreign born, only 0.8 of one per cent were illiterate. The comparatively high percentage of illiteracy among the immigrants themselves thus practically disappears in their children. Indeed, it would seem that the foreign born groups in the country more readily appreciate its school advantages than do the native born. For only while 0.8 of one per cent of the children of foreign born parents were illiterate, 2.5 per cent of all white persons, ten years of age and over, of native parentage were illiterate. In other words, the children of native white parents showed proportionately three times as much illiteracy as the child-

(1) Stella, A., - Some Aspects of Italian Immigration, - - p. 53-54.

ren of immigrant parents." (1)

C:-Disease.

"The high average physical vigor of the immigrants from Italy is demonstrated by their endurance of the most exhausting labors under trying climatic conditions. It is questionable whether the immigrants from any other country show an equal adaption to the rigors of our northern winters and the intense sun glare on our southern plantations. The endurance of climatic shifts and extremes without distress is in a measure accounted for by the fact that so many have been inured to such conditions in their own country, for in spite of their nearer approach to the tropics, the mountainous districts of Italy are often colder in winter than any considerable district in England. Moreover, there is less provision, ordinarily, in Italy for the artificial heating of houses in winter and Italians live without a shiver in cold rooms which the average American would not tolerate."(2)

(a) Mortality - All reliable statistics of disease and mortality obtainable here show that the Italians, as a body, are so healthy and rugged that their death rate is comparatively low. The power of resistance to disease is impaired in children born in unsanitary quarters, but this is rather a reproach to the inadequacy of tenement house

(1) Stella, A., - Some Aspects of Italian Immigration,- p. 56.
(2) Lord, Trenor, Barrows, - Italians in America, - pp. 198-199.

regulation than to the degeneracy of the stock. The exact reports obtainable in Boston may fairly be taken as an exhibit of the average in American cities. In a communication to Charities, May 7, 1904, Rocco Brindisi, M. D., summarizes the comparison of mortality in this city for a typical year. "In 1902 there were in Boston 641 deaths among the Italians. Of the deceased, 175 were born in Italy and 466 were born in America of Italian parents. The total figures represent six per cent of the total number of deaths in the city of Boston and 11.43 per thousand of the population. This rate of mortality is lower than that of any other nationality except the Russeans." (1) Dr. Stella, in his book entitled "Some Aspects of Italian Immigragion," verifies this statement by furnishing the following table:-

TABLE I

Mortality in the United States According to Nationality (2)		
Country of Birth	Mortality figures per 100,000 of the population	
	Children under one year (1915)	From Consumption (1900)
Russians	77.9	
Italians	103.0	113.6
Germans	115.0	167.0
Irish	119.0	339.6
English	138.0	135.1
American Born	106.0	112.8

(1) Brindisi, Rocco, - Italian Mortality in the City of Boston, Charities, May 7, 1904. p. 483.
(2) Stella, A., - Some Aspects of Italian Immigration - p. 67.

The reader will note that the above table provides up to the year 1915, which proves that Dr. Brindisi's statement of 1902 still holds true 13 years later.

In considering these figures we must also remember that the Italians, more than any other foreign group, engage in dangerous and hazardous occupations, in mines, steel mills, blasting, excavation, besides all sorts of dusty and unhealthy trades. For example, many Italians, working as stone-cutters in the quarries of Quincy, Mass. have been known to obtain tuberculosis from the dust at their occupations and have thus fallen victims to this dreaded disease. A great many others engaged in such other dangerous tasks have also paid with their health and lives, while adding to the prosperity of the United States.

On this same subject Dr. Stella says: "To see at a glance and prove that tuberculosis instead of being imported into the United States by Italians, is contracted by them in this country or from here carried to Italy, it is instructive to read the figures of the official report, giving the proportion of cases of tuberculosis found among those west-bound and those east-bound. Among 309,503 Italian immigrants who left Italy for the United States in 1903 -1904, there were only two cases of tuberculosis treated in the ships hospital, a rate of 0.006 per cent. Among 169,229

homeward bound from the United States to Italy during the same two years, there was 457 in the ship's hospital, besides 17 who died at sea, without counting those who traveled as first and second cabin passengers and thus escaped enumeration." (1)

(b) - Italians and Specific Physical Diseases - "The largest percentage of sickness is furnished by Italian women and children. When these groups land in the early spring, they pay tribute to acclimation by contracting rheumatic and respiratory diseases, such as rheumatism, bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleuritis. Yet the vigor of these immigrants is such, as Dr. Brindisi observes, that "the proportion of deaths is moderate, owing to the strong constitution, the youth and the temperate habits of the patients." (2)

The Italian women here are forced to change entirely their mode of living. From the active natural life in the open air they are plunged at once into a life of relative inactivity and seclusion, and consequently become more or less liable to general impairment of the organic functions. They are frequently affected with dysmenhorrhea, dyspepsia, anemia, chlorsis, and kindred diseases; and their impaired physical condition has an injurious effect on the children, who contribute largely to the mortality.

"Besides the maternal influence, improper nursing and

(1) Stella, A., - Some Aspects of Italian Immigration,- p. 68.
(2) Brindisi, Rocco, - Italian Mortality in the City of Boston, Charities, May 7, 1904 - p. 483.

insufficiency of fresh air are responsible for the great number of ailments and deaths among the Italian children. Rickets and tuberculosis are the most frequent general diseases. Bronchitis, broncho-pneumonia and pneumonia, usually affect them in winter and intermediate seasons, while in the hot weather the dreadful host of the so-called summer complaints from the irritative gastro-enteritis to the deadly cholera infantum storms and ravages the Italo-American breed." (1)

(c) Alcoholism and Mental Diseases -"The principal causes of mental degeneracy are alcoholism and syphilis. That the Italians are the least alcoholic white race in the world can be seen in the subjoined table, taken from the French Government Investigation which shows by countries the per capita consumption of distilled liquors.

TABLE II

Yearly Consumption of Distilled Alcoholic Liquors in Litres Per Inhabitant. (2)
(Average of the forty years 1873-1912)

Nation	Litres per Capita
Italy	0.66
Norway	1.76
England	2.53
United States	2.54
Russia	2.60
France	3.73
Belgium	4.09
Germany	4.20

(1) Lord, Trenor, Barrows, - Italians in America, - p. 199-200.
(2) Stella, A., - Some Aspects of Italian Immigration,- p. 58.

Italians residing in the United States have not succombed to the ravages of alcoholism as so many other races have, and this is shown by the comparatively small number of arrests for drunkenness, reported in the United States Census of 1910. These official figures prove that Italians in the United States have fewer number of arrests for drunkeness and fewer deaths from alcoholism than any other race.

TABLE III

DRUNKENESS IN THE UNITED STATES (1) Prisoners and Juvenile Delinquents, p. 115, Tables 51&112 (by Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census)			
Country of Birth		Number of arrests for drunkeness and disorderly conduct (per 100,000)	Number of deaths from alcoholism (per 100,000) (1900 Census)
American born	white	202.6	
	negro	424.9	285.9
Italians			158.1
English			488.5
Germans			218.9
Irish			1540.1

			2.4
			0.7
			8.3
			6.1
			17.7

"What is still more significant is the difference among different races, of the amount of drunkenness among women and prostitution. Here, again, it appears from the same United States Census Report that fewer Italian women are imprisoned for drunkenness or prostitution than of any other race." (2)

(1) Stella, A., - Some Aspects of Italian Immigration, - p. 59.
(2) Stella, A., - Some Aspects of Italian Immigration, - p. 60.

The following table is furnished:

TABLE IV

DRUNKENNESS OF WOMEN AND PROSTITUTION					
Country of Birth	Total Foreign Born	No. of Women Jailed for Drunkenness and Disorderly conduct	Ratio per 100,000	Arrested for Prostitution	Ratio per 100,000
Italians	1,343,070	59	4.39	14	1.0
Russians	1,184,382	158	13.36	34	2.9
Germans	2,501,181	335	13.36	38	1.5
English	958,934	815	85.10	75	7.8
Irish	1,352.155	3,727	275.50	112	8.3

"Drunkenness is also primarily responsible for filling our almshouses. Italians compared with any of the other foreign-born groups, show the lowest percentage of paupers enumerated and admitted to almshouses in the United States, as clearly shown in the following table taken from the Census of 1910." (1)

TABLE V

FOREIGN PAUPERS ENUMERATED AND ADMITTED TO ALMSHOUSES IN IN THE UNITED STATES. (1910)			
Nationality	Foreign population in 1910	Admitted in the U. S. Almshouses	Percentage of its own population.
Italians	1,343,070	1,139	0.08%
Austro-Hungarian	1,670,524	1,666	0.09
Scandinavians	1,250,662	1,947	0.15
Germans	2,501,118	5,531	0.22
English & Welsh	958,934	2,946	0.30
Irish	1,352,155	11,906	0.88

(1) Stella, A., Some Aspects of Italian Immigration, - p. 63.

Undoubtedly it is true that many of the diseases among Italians are due to congested and unsanitary conditions, but there is also no doubt in my mind that these conditions have been improved in the last quarter of a decade.

Remedial measures to check the start and spread of disease in congested centers are still to be devised and extended, but there is on the shole no warrant for any alarmist view of Italian degeneracy in America. There is certainly no inherent lack of vitality in the people. On the contrary, as Dr. Stella observes, the Italians, except for a susceptibility to pulmonary disease, show the most wonderful elements of resistance and recuperation, as may be seen in the favorable manner they react to surgical operation, extreme temperatures, and all sorts of trials.

D:Distribution.

"The factors determining the distribution of Italians in our country are probably three: 1-the economic opportunity our country offers; 2-the immigrant's trade or training; 3-the location of kinsfolk or former neighbors. Where are the Italians located who form so great a proportion as ten per cent of our population of foreign birth? According to the census of 1920, in the state of New York there were 862,000; in Massachusetts 174,000; in Illinois 149,000;

in California 139,000; in Connecticut 127,000; in Ohio 96,000; in Rhode Island 51,000; Michigan 48,000; Louisiana 26,000; Missouri 23,000; West Virginia 22,000; these figures include foreign born Italians and those, one or both of whose parents were born in Italy. Such a table demonstrates that the Italian population is found where the great manufacturing and mining industries are in which they engage, and hence geographically they are to be found in the New England, Middle Atlantic and East North Central sections. Outside of these, only Louisiana, because of the Italians of New Orleans, and California, because of the Italians of San Francisco, have large numbers of the race. Moreover, four-fifths of the total is urban, and in no small degree metropolitan, when we consider the present Italian population of our larger cities (including those, one or both, of whose parents were born in Italy): New York City 615,000, Philadelphia 100,000, Chicago 110,000, Newark 50,000, Boston 60,000, San Francisco 40,000, Providence 30,000, Detroit 25,000, Rochester 30,000, New Haven 23,000, Pittsburgh 30,000, Jersey City 23,000, New Orleans 15,000, Buffalo 27,000, Baltimore 12,000." (1)

E:-Occupations.

(a) Agricultural - "Seventy-five per cent of the Italians who come here are men who in their own country live

(1) Rose, Philip, - The Italians in America, - p. 53-54.

a healthful outdoor life, tilling the ground or caring for vineyards or orchards. Less than twenty per cent find such employment here." (1) "The reasons universally ascribed for this fact are: the remembrance of former better experience in agriculture in Italy: the corresponding distaste for the solitude of the American farm: and the quick returns from industrial work as compared with the hard labor and slow returns from the farm. But, Mr. Lord, in his "Italians in America," argues that "instead of charging the Italian with neglecting the agricultural regions of our country, would it not be more correct to urge that they have neglected him? What has the body of farmers and plantation owners done to open employment on any practicable terms to the Italians? The western farming lands were largely taken up in advance by immigrants from Northern Europe before the advent of the Italians in any considerable numbers here. The days when accessible lands could be readily obtained under our homestead laws were past. Preference was naturally given by the Western settlers in possession to immigrant helpers of their own nationalities, and opportunities for securing land have been practically rese rved for these affiliated colonists alone." (2) A combination of the two

(1) Mangano, Antonio, - Sons of Italy, - p. 21.
(2) Lord, Trenor, Barrows, - Italians in America, - p. 117-118.

sides discussed is probably why the American Italian bas become to be known as a confirmed tenement dweller.

"Aside from a few definitely undertaken migrations from Italy for agricultural colonization, agricultural settlements have been founded in the following ways; 1 - members of construction gangs have remained in the vicinity where they were ingaged, and have bought and improved land. 2 - Groups migrate temporarily from the city to pick berries or hop, to cultivate tobacco or sugar cane, or, in the season, to can vegetables and fruits, and remain. 3 - Market gardeners, usually South Italians, cultivate a vacant lot or pieces of land they have acquired in the neighborhood of cities." (1) "North Italians take a prominent part in these agricultural settlements especially where they are union enterprises, as at Vineland, N. J. (the oldest colony), at Valdese, N. C., Glastonbury, Conn., Tontitown, Ark., Asti, California." (2)

"The farmers of these agricultural settlements often make a success where American farmers fail, but characteristically do not carry on the diversified farming or produce staple crops as the American. Deficient in capital and in the understanding of machines, fertilizer, and rotation of crops which capital allows, the Southern Italians,

(1) Foerster, R., - Italian Emigration of Our Times, - p. 365.
(2) Rose, Philip,- Italians inAmerica, - p. 58.

especially begin in a small way by digging or grubbing out a farm from waste lands. Their crops are berries, grapes, peaches, vegetables, and forage. In several colonies, has wealth been amassed. Over a course of years they have learned method from the Americans. The colonies are very interesting as schools of cooperation. Some have failed through its lack. Others are very successful." (1)

(b) - Manufacturing - "Italians are found in large numbers in the metal trades, as for example in foundries, automobile factories, manufactories of cutlery and fixtures. They work in the lumber mills of the South and California, paper and wood pulp, rubber, glass, tobacco, oil and chemical, shoe and textile factories. They have invaded the clothing industry, rivalling the Jews since 1890 in New York and Philadelphia, Italian women being, respectively, two-thirds and one-half of those employed. They are in the glove, knit-goods, button, and artificial flower trades; in candy, paper-box, celluloid, and piano making; in launderies and canneries; but in such manufacturing and allied pursuits "natural aptitudes have counted but little, trained skill only a little, and physical strength to but a moderate degree. Not much knowledge of this country's speech has been necessary. New York State, the Connecticut Valley, and New Jersey have been the preferred regions for the

(1) Rose, Philip, - Italians in America, - p. 59.

Italians in respect to manufacturing." (1)

- (c) - In Mining and Building - "In mining the Italians have attained a commanding position. In the bituminous coal industry the Immigration Commission found numbers of the race to be one-eight of the entire working force. In 1910 there were 28,650 persons, born in Italy, in the three primary anthracite coal counties of Pennsylvania. They are in the metalliferous regions of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and the far West; in the phosphate mines of the South; and with great success in Northern stone quarries. In building trades they are less numerous because of competition, although relatively of large number, except as stone-cutters, masons, and, of course, excavators. On public works, street-cleaning ans street-building, and other public building enterprises, of small and of great magnitude, they are omnipresent and often have a monopoly of the work.

"They have recently displaced other races as longshoremen; they have succeeded the Irish as unskilled labor on railways, so great a system as the Pennsylvania reporting 13,500 on its rolls." (2)

(d) - In Occupations of the Fatherland. - "A certain proportion of Italian immigration has not been compelled

(1) Rose, Philip, - Italians in America, - p. 56.
(2) Foerster, R., - Italian Emigration of our Times, - p. 349-359.

to work at other than their overseas trades, but has found its place in American industry at the old time occupations and therefore is often better distributed. Of such a sort are stone-cutters, mechanics, mariners, masons, barbers, seamstresses, ans showmakers. The Italian barber is everywhere. He has come to be the leading shoemaker, bootblack, barber, fruit-dealer, stone-cutter, or musician even in the small town." (1)

The Italians who are engaged in professional occupations will be discussed in chapter five.

F:-Naturalization.

There are still many Italians in the United States today who are not naturalized and who are still looking forward, with keen interest, to the day when they will become Americans. Of course, I am referring to the Italians who came to this country between 1894 and 1924. What I am about to say will affect also, the comparatively small number that has invaded our shores since the restriction of immigration.

From the very first time the Italian immigrant sets foot on American territory he aspires to become an American citizen. He is fully aware of the fact that it is his duty and his advantage to become a citizen of the United States. But what happens? Generally, he is received and looked

(1) Rose, Philip, - Italians in America, - p. 57.

upon with contempt. The American people, as a whole, are not aware that Italians are highly sensitive to the emotional side of life. Nothing is more effective in shying off an Italian from becoming an American citizen than to treat him as an inferior human being. On the other hand nothing will induce him more to become a citizen and quickly adopt American customs and ideals than the feeling of sympathy and appreciation of the American people. Dr. Antonio Stella quoting Frank V. Thompson, former Superintendent of Schools in Boston, from his book "The Schooling of the Immigrant," repeats:

"The native born (Americans) must rid themselves of two kinds of obsessions before they will be spiritually fit to undertake the task of securing the whole-souled loyalty and coöperation of the foreign-born. These delusions, are, first, that native Americans constitute a superior race, when compared with the foreign-born, and second, that our institutions and aspirations are greater and distinctive to our own people and country." (1) It is evident that the American attitude is softening toward the "foreigner" but this feeling of resentment is still predominant. The people must be made to realize that the rapid Americanization of the "foreigner" is, in the final analysis, to their advantage and not their disadvantage.

It is also evident that the American people must learn

(1) Quoted by, Antonio Stella, from his book - Some Aspects of Italian Immigration, - p. 23.

to exercise a little more patience with foreigners. Dr. Stella says, "It is a most curious popular misconception that peace and quietness and respect for law and order can be developed in the foreigner by suddenly and violently disturbing his mental life." (1) In other words, foreigners can not be naturalized over-night.

We seem to forget the newness of the Italian nation, its historical despotism and other national difficulties; we seem to forget that the Italian wave of immigration is the most recent one and therefore only natural that the Italians will be among the last to become Americanized. We must not forget also, that there is little affinity between the language of Italians and Americans. With these thoughts in mind the reader will more fully appreciate and understand the place of Italians in the following table:

TABLE VI (1)

NATURALIZATION OF THE FOREIGN BORN					
	Foreign Born Population in 1920	Percentage of each group Nat. in 1920	Percentage of Aliens Naturalized during the years		Percentage of Aliens that got First Papers
			1921-22	1922-23	
Italians	1,610,109	28.1	1.72	1.54	10.0
Poles	1,139,976	28.0	1.26	2.00	13.0
Russians	1,400,489	40.0	1.35	1.23	9.9
United Kingdom	2,171,694	65.6	0.98	0.78	6.1
Germans	1,686,102	72.8	1.52	0.71	6.9
French	152,890	56.7	0.73	0.58	7.3

(1)Stella, A., Some Aspects of Italian Immigration, -p. 24.
(2)Stella, A., Some Aspects of Italian Immigration, -p. 21.

Respect for government and law is not a natural instinct. It is an artificial attitude built up in the individual by all sorts of direct and indirect special pressure. The breakdown of old habits of thought in any one of the great departments of social activity, very rapidly affects the other phases of conduct. The whole moral life of the individual tends to become unsettled. The capable Americanized foreigner sometimes possesses all the native American's ruthless agressiveness without possessing his social, ethical, religious, or political idealism. The corruption of politics and the traffic in citizenship upon which the ward politicians fatten are the direct result of indiscriminate Americanization, and much of the crime in this country is committed by boys and men of this detached group, neither really foreigners nor yet Americans.

"True Americanization is a slow internal process, not a political or commercial expedient. It comes from a culture of soul and mind, and where moral character has been established and the best ideals of this country are understood, the external manners and customs take care of themselves. Therefore, let us go very slow with Americanization, particularly in the endeavor to hasten that progress." (1)

Secretary of Labor Davis, in an address before the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association in Washington in

(1) Stella, A., - Some Aspects of Italian Immigration, - p. 24-26.

1923 said:

"It is the duty of the United States Government to see that the eight or nine millions unnaturalized foreign-born residents of the United States are properly educated in the American language and the institutions of this Government. ------Not only for their own good, but for the welfare of America." (1)

G:-Temporary and Permanent Settlers.

It is true that all Italian immigrants who journey to the United States do not come with ideas of permanent settlement. Many come only in search of higher wages and a chance to earn enough to keep them in "comfort" for the rest of their lives in their native lands. "The following table shows the number of foreigners that departed during 1920-1921 from the United States." (2)

TABLE VII

Nationality	Foreign-born Population in the U.S. in 1920	Total Departed during 1920 - 1921	Percentage of Departed to Residents
Czecho-slovaks	362,436	15,935	4.39
French	152,890	6,560	4.29
Poles	1,139,978	43,911	3.86
Italians	1,610,109	57,532	3.58
United Kingdom	2,171,694	29,429	1.36
Russians	1,400,489	15,960	1.14

(1) N. E. A. Reasearch Bulletin for January, 1923.-p.53.
(2) Stella, A., Some Aspects of Italian Immigration, - p. 15.

This proves that, though a large part of the immigrants settle in the United States, from 3 to 4 per cent of the Italians return yearly to their native land; they represent that part of the population that, on account of a lesser affinity with the national organism of America, has not succeeded or does not wish to settle here.

Such a weeding-out process by the immigrant himself is of the greatest value to the United States, since those who decide to settle permanently do so of their own free will. They become assimilated through marriage, naturalization and other social or political relationships and through successful participation in the country's economic and political life. In other words, the permanent "settling" takes place in proportion to the inborn capacity of the individual's ability to make a success of life in the new atmosphere, according to the standards of the American commonwealth. On the other hand, those who find that they lack something within themselves to enable them properly to harmonize their lives with the American environment eventually return to their motherland.

Now, it is the popular notion of many Americans that if a foreigner does not become naturalized after five years of residence here he should leave. They also take steps to forcibly Americanize him as quickly as possible. Would not

the interests of our country be better served by leaving the situation to the process of natural selection? "Instead of coercing the individual to become a citizen, it would be better to place the naturalization process on a still higher plane by raising the standards of its eligibility." (1) Under a more adjustable freedom of movement, these temporary or "undesirable foreigners" would eliminate themselves by returning to their native lands.

H:-The Italian Standard of Living.

Racial heritage, economic status and methods of distribution produce a complicated aggregate of social conditions among Italian-Americans, which can only gradually be bettered. American indifference or willingness to exploit, changes these conditions into community problems, while friendliness and understanding convert them into assets. "The adaptation of the Italian to the American standard of life is proportionate to his arrival here. The older generation change very slightly except as economic motive constrains it. This holds true in town, but also in the country notwithstanding greater contact with Americans." (2) There are many men who have never learned, and who are incapable of learning English, many women, who, still held in domestic seclusion, never venture beyond their quarter and whom the

(1) Stella, A., - Some Aspects of Italian Immigration, - p. 17.
(2) Rose, Philip, - Italians in America, - p. 65.

teacher of English must seek to teach, not outside of their own block, if she would teach them at all. The younger generation born in Italy and the generation born in America still attached to Italian cooking and customs nevertheless want American things. They are never absolutely removed from the influences and physical environment of their Italian parents but the generation born here is entirely sophisticated in its American life and is very likely to spurn and despise the habits and customs of their parents.

(a) - The Italian Home - Along the main street of an Italian community one will see numerous grocery shops and markets, innumerable groups of children swarming in and out of doorways, clotheslines suspended wherever it is possible to do so, pushcarts of all descriptions, crowded tenement houses, and other such sights which are included in the Italian colony. It is sights such as these that lead the American to loath and despise the Italians in general. But if he would stop to realize that the poor Italian has never known or has even rarely seen better conditions he would appreciate his "standard" of living here. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that this "standard" has been bettered tremendously within the last decade. The Italian is rapidly adopting American habits and customs.

The schools have been very instrumental in bringing this improvement about. They have given the children of Italian parents an understandable insight in the ways of American life, who have in turn, brought it home to their parents. Italians are gentle and tender to their children and hold great respect and faith in them, more so after they have been schooled. They realize that they are better informed about American ways and it is not uncommon to find many Italian houses under this American domination. I think the day when Italians will attain the comparatively higher plane of living such as is held by the Irish today is not very far away. The channels which will bring this about will be education and humility on the part of other nationalities toward the Italians.

CHAPTER IV

THE ITALIANS IN CRIME

A:-Popular Opinion Regarding Crime and the Foreign-born and How it is Created

Disproportionately, perhaps, yet surely, some part of the American attitude toward the Italians has been determined by their record in crime. The frequency with which foreign names, especially Italian, have appeared of late in the press in connection with crimes of violence has led many people to form this attitude. I have been influenced in the same way against my own nationality but after making a study of the situation my impression has been somewhat changed.

The impression that foreigners commit more crimes than the native-born can, without a doubt, be traced to newspapers and other agencies that bring news to the attention of the American people.

In an article appearing in the New York Times, Mr. Frank J. Loesch, a member of President Hoover's Crime Commission and head of the Chicago Crime Commission, said: "The American people are not a lawless people. It is the foreigners and the first generation of Americans who are loaded on us." (1)

The "Chicago Tribune" in an editorial appearing in its issue of September 10, 1928, states: "No one can read the list of names of the dead gangsters without being impress-

(1) New York Times, - March 23, 1923.

ed with their alien chararcter -----. For the most part, the murderers were not born or reared in Chicago or even in the United States." (1)

Judge Kavanaugh in his book "The Criminal and His Allies," states: "Aside from crimes committed by negroes, two-thirds of the crimes committed in the United States are committed by persons born in Europe or by their immediate descendants." (2)

Many other similar statements by equally responsible persons could be cited.

In the 1920 report of the Crime Commission of New York State, reference is made to the charge that "certain newspapers through the publication of crime news create a public mind of false impression of the amount and importance of crime because of the fact that there is no definite relation between the crime news featured and the actual amount of crime committed." (3)

Newspapers, as a rule, feature only spectacular crimes. But such crimes represent only a small fraction of the total number of crimes committed annually in the country. "The real problem of crime is not principally robbery, burglary and murder. These three offenses constitute about 1 or 2 per cent of the arrests, 2 or 4 per cent of the con-

(1) Chicago Tribune, - September 10, 1927.
(2) Kavanaugh, M. A., - The Criminal and His Allies, - p. 24.
(3) Crime Commission of New York State, - 1929 Report - p. 38.

victions in courts, and five per cent of the commitments to jails, prisons and reformatories." (1) To judge, therefore, crime conditions in the United States from the accounts given in the newspapers is inaccurate and misleading.

B:-The Inadequacy of Present Criminal Statistics.

The foregoing statments against the foreign-born are unfounded even if made by such reliable authorities because of the inadequacy of the present available statistics. In order to establish on a scientific basis to what extent foreigners contribute to national crime, it is essential that we have uniform and comprehensive criminal statistics. At present no such statistics are available. All would-be significant statements concerning criminality among the foreign-born in the United States are, more or less, the product of guess work.

Most police departments and penal institutions in the country have statistical bureaus, to be sure, but only in a relatively few cases do we find uniform methods for collecting data. Indeed, what is a felony in one state, may be only a mis deameanor in another. What may be declared a crime in one state, may be perfectly legal in another.

"Some students of criminology attach importance to the number of crimes for a given national group by the nationality of the victims of homicide, disregarding the fact that

(1) Review of the National Crime Commission Conference by E. R. Cass, 1928 - p. 15.

a man of one nationality may be killed by one of another nationality. Students of crime conditions know how erroneous such a classification can be. Still others would classify national groups according to charges preferred in the various courts of the country, without taking into consideration that only a relatively small percentage of the charges result in convictions." (1)

According to a report of the National Crime Commission, (2) the ratio of arrests to certain crimes known to the police a few years ago, was as low as 5% for burglary in Kansas City; 8% for forgery in St. Louis; 32% for murder in St. Louis; and 3% for robbery in Buffalo. Convictions, of course, were much lower.

It is clear, therefore, how difficult it is to make sweeping statements regarding crime conditions throughout the country.

(a)-<u>What Government Figures Show About Prisoners in the United States</u>. - Very comprehensive figures regarding crime in the United States appear in a report of the department of Commerce, Bureau of Census,--"Prisoners, 1923-Crime conditions in the United States as reflected in census statistics of imprisoned offenders"--Here again, the unreliability of statistics may lead the reader to many wrong con-

(1) Schiavo, G., - What Crime Statistics Show About Italians, - p. 5.
(2) National Crime Commission - The Relation of the Police and the Courts to the Crime Problem -- 1930 - p. 6.

clusions.

On page 59 we read, "Native white prisoners formed only 53.4 per cent of the total number present January 1st., and only 54.4 per cent of those committed, while 70.9 per cent of the adult population were native white. Foreign-born white prisoners formed 13.8 per cent of the prison population and 18.7 per cent of the commitments, as compared with 19.4 per cent foreign-born white for the adult population. Among male prisoners present January 1st., the percentage of the foreign-born whites was much smaller than in the male population; but the percentage of the foreign-whites wa nearly as large for commitments as for the general population. Among female prisoners, however, the foreign-born white made up a smaller percentage for both groups of prisoners than for the population." (1)

Then, on page 64; "The ratio of commitments 18 years of age and over during the year 1923 was of 404.1 for native-born whites and 517.5 for foreign-born whites. The ratio for males and females was respectively of 758.4 and 44.6 for the native-born whites and 890.9 and 57.1 for the foreign-born whites." (2)

In other words, in proportion to population of the same class, in the United States, the foreign-born whites

(1) National Crime Commission - The Relation of the Police and the Courts to the Crime Problem -1930- p. 59.
(2) National Crime Commission - The Relation of the Police and the Courts to the Crime Problem -1930- p. 64.

had a larger number of commitments than the native-born whites. Quoting again, "there were 34.9 foreign-born white commitments for every 100 native white commitments, whereas in the total population there were only 27.4 foreign-born whites per 100 native white persons. Thus as shown by the coefficient of difference, there were 1.3 times as many commitments in proportion to population for forei gn-born whites as for native whites." (1)

On page 59, however, we find: "Both among prisoners present January 1st., and among commitments, the percentage of native whites was somewhat higher among those in prisons and reformatories than among those in jails and workhouses. The foreign-born whites, on the contrary, made up a decidedly lower percentage of the prison and reformatory group than of the jail and workhouse prisoners." (2) Such a statement acquires great significance if we bear in mind that "commitments to prisons and reformatories represent, in general, serious offenses, while commitments to jails and workhouses are for minor offenses." (3)

Moreover, it is explained on page 59, "it should be noted that the percentage of urban population is considerably larger for the foreign-born than for the native-born.

(1) National Crime Commission - The Relation of the police and the Courts to the Crime Problem -1930- p. 65.
(2) National Crime Commission - The Relation of the Police and the Courts to the Crime Problem -1930- p. 59.
(3) National Crime Commission - The Relation of the Police and the Courts to the Crime Problem -1930- p. 95.

As a rule, much more law breaking occurs under urban conditions than in rural surroundings. Temptations and opportunities to commit many offenses are numerous in the cities. In addition, many acts, harmless in the country, are prohibited in the cities. Consequently, the excessive number of foreign-born in prisons is accounted for to a great extent by the tendency of immigrants to settle largely in the cities." (1)

"Indeed, according to the United States Census in 1920, 51.4 per cent of the total population was classified as urban, as against 75.4 per cent of the foreign-born. On the other hand, only 42.0 per cent of the native-born whites were living in urban centers." (2)

There are other factors which should be taken into consideration.

If two foreign-born laborers, for example, should get into a brawl and be arrested for disorderly conduct, it is very likely that they might be sentenced to spend a few days in jail, wither because they may not be able to pay the fine imposed by the court, or because of other difficulties, such as ignorance of the language and of American customs and procedure. But, if two well-to-do native-born whites were to commit the same offense, it is by far more proba-

(1) National Crime Commission - The Relation of the Police and the Courts to the Crime Problem -1930- page 59.
(2) Schiavo, G., - What Crime Statistics Show About Italians,- p. 7.

ble that they would be sentenced to pay a fine, and walk out of the police station. How many of the well-to-do native born whites are ever arrested for drunkenness? Moreover, how much more difficult is it for a foreign-born than for a native-born prisoner to secure bail?

A more equitable comparison would be on the basis of commitments to prisons and reformatories, that is of offenders convicted of major crimes. The following table illustrates this point.

TABLE I (1)

COMMITMENTS OF FOREIGN-BORN TO PENAL INSTITUTIONS					
Nativity		General Population 18 years and over - 1920 Census	Total Commitments	Commitments Jan. 1 - June 30, 1923	
				Prisons & Reformatories	Jails & Workhouses
Both Sexes	Native Whites	47,185,119	90,496	11,825	78,671
	Foreign Born	12,897,754	31,054	2,297	28,757
Male	Native Whites	23,987,754	85,466,	11,118	74,348
	Foreign Born	7,111,072	29,516	2,192	27,324
		Ratio per 100,000 Population			
Both Sexes	Native Whites		192	25.1	167
	Foreign Born		241	17.8	223
Male	Native Whites		360	46.8	313
	Foreign Born		415	30.8	384

Here again the foreign-born whites show a higher ratio than the native whites for total number of commitments, but

(1) Schiavo, G., - What Crime Statistics Show About Italians, - Page. 8.

native whites have a much higher ratio than the foreign-born for commitments to prisons and reformatories. The ratios for the males also show the prevalence of native whites in prisons and reformatories, even in a more striking manner than the figures based on commitments of both sexes.

It is clear therefore that the impression that foreigners have a higher ratio of commitments for major crimes than the native-born whites is ill-founded. The ratio for the foreign-born would appear still lower, were it possible to make a comparison on the basis of commitments and total population by urban and rural distribution, as on closer group ages such as 24 to 59.

(b) - Statistics and the Number of Offenses. - When we turn from the number of commitments to the offenses committed, we find that, "those convicted of larceny, burglary, fraud, forgery and robbery formed a decidely higher percentage of native white than of foreign-born white prisoners. The combined commitments for these offenses made up nearly 15 per cent of the native white against less than 8 per cent of the foreign-born white prisoners; at the same time, the foreign-born white prisoners exceeded the native white as to percentages convicted of the chief minor offenses. For these offenses, the combined percentage was 49 per cent of the foreign-born white against only 40.6 per cent of the native whites.

"Comparing, first, the 'percent of the total' figures it will be seen that native white prisoners formed an exceptionally high percentage of the total number convicted of forgery, violating traffic laws, adultery and robbery. The foreign-born whites made up unusually highproportions of the total prisoners convicted, respectively, of non-support and neglect of family, drunkenness, violating city ordinances, violating liquor laws, and disorderly conduct." (1)

As regards the relative importance of each offense, "a higher percentage of native whites than foreign-born whites or negroes has been convicted of the following offences: violating traffic laws and drug laws, fraud, forgery, robbery, rape and adultery. A higher percentage of foreign-born whites than of native whites or negroes, had been sentenced for drunkenness, violating liquor laws and city ordinances, and non-support or neglect of family. This condition is accounted for, largly, if not entirely, by the fact that commitments for these offenses are especially frequent in urban surroundings, where the percentage of foreign-born is high." (2)

There is, however, another test which could be applied in defense of the foreign-born. This is the difference

(1) National Crime Commission - The Relation of the Police and the Courts to the Crime Problem, -1930- p. 59.
(2) Schiavo, G., - What Crime Statistics Show About Italians, - p. 9-10.

that exists between the divisions of the United States that had the highest ratios of commitments and the percentage of foreign-born population of those divisions. "The ratios for major crimes, such as homicides, rape, assault, robbery, burglary, larcent, violations of drug laws, violations of liquor laws, fornication and drunkenness, were highest in the following divisions: East South, Central, Pacific, East North Central, and Mountain and South Atlantic. Now 62.3 percent of the foreign-born population (and incidentally 84.9 per cent of the natives of Italy) in 1920 were residents of the New England, Middle Atlantic and East North Central divisions. In the following classification, the East North Central division come first only in assault. In other words, the divisions having the highest ratios of commitments were those having a relatively low percentage of foreign-born whites." (1)

A more concrete presentation may be had from the following table which shows the rank of the states having the largest number of foreign-born whites among commitments for major crimes. (Table on Next Page.)

(1) National Crime Commission - The Relation of the Police and the Courts to the Crime Problem, -1930- p. 41.

TABLE II

Offense	New England	Middle Atlantic	East North Central
Homicide	9th	6th	7th
Rape	3rd	6th	4th
Assault	7th	3rd	2nd
Larceny	9th	8th	3rd
Violation of Drug Laws	6th	2nd	6th
Robbery	8th	5th	3rd
Violation of Liquor Laws	8th	9th	4th
Prostitution	3rd	8th	5th
Drunkenness	2nd	6th	3rd
Burglary	6th	5th	6th

It is true that comparison of the commitment figures for states and sections of the country does not reveal the prevalence of crime in general nor of specific offenses, neverthe less, Table II shows at least, that the states having the highest proportions of foreigners are not leading in the number of inmates in penal institutions.

(c) - Comparisons Between Foreign Groups - The National Crime report examines in detail some of the figures for the foreign-born whites. It shows for example that "eleven countries had more than 226.5 commitments in all penal institutions per 100,000 population, the average commitment ratio for all foreign-born white prisoners. These countries were Finland, Mexico, Ireland, Australia, Greece, Norway, Sweden, Poland, Scotland, Russia, Hungary. Italy came

thirteenth with a ratio of 201.8, or below the average for all the foreign-born." (1)

1. Fallacy of Distribution - Many compilers of statistics, instead of considering each race as a unit, as they should, formulate their tables by including all foreign races as one group. The result of such a process leaves the individual to make his own conclusions as to each particular nationality, and many are untrue. According to the figures of the National Crime Commission, "the Italians occupy the fourth place (with a ratio of 25.9) among foreign-born commitments for serious offenses in prisons and reformatories, being preceeded by Greece (42.1(Yugoslavia (46.9), and Mexico (77.3)." (2) The fallacy of comparing foreign-born commitments wil be realized if we bear in mind the great differences that exist in the composition and distribution of the various foreign groups in the United States. A few examples will suffice:

"We have seem that the average urban distribution for the foreign-born whites in the United States in 1920 was 76.6 of their total number. If we examine these figures in detail, however, it appears at once that great differences exist withing the foreign groups themselves. The Norwegians,

(1) Schiavo, Giovanni, - What Crime Statistics Show About Italians, - p. 11.
(2) National Crime Commission - The Relation of the Police and the Courts to the Crime Problem -1930- p. 83.

for example, had an urban rate of 47.2 as against 87.5 for the Greeks and 84.4 for the Italians." (1)

2. Fallacy of Sex - "The average sex distribution for the foreign-born whites in the United States in 1920 was of 55.1 males and 44.9 females. Yet, of the Greeks in America in 1920, 81.6 per cent were males, as against 43.9 per cent for the Irish. (Of the 1923 foreign-born commitments only 5 per cent were females). What difference is pade by computation on the basis of male population alone is shown in Table 60, according to which, to cite only one example, the Greeks, who occupied the fifth place among foreign-born commitments of both sexes, occupy the 11th place among foreign-born male commitments alone. No percentages were given for female commitments." (2)

It can be seen then, that the compilers of available criminal statistics fail to take into consideration the possibility of sex fallacies when making conclusions on the foreign-born and the crimes they commit.

3. Fallacy of Age Distribution - "In 1920, according to the United States Census, great variations existed in the age distribution of the foreign-born in the United States. Of the Slovak males living in urban centers, for example, as high as 94.0 per cent were of maturity age (15 to 59),

(1) Schiavo, G., - What Crime Statistics Show About Italians, - p. 11.
(2) Schiavo, G., - What Crime Statistics Show About Italians, - p. 12.

but of the Germans only 77.1 per cent could be classified under the same age group. Figures for age groups closer to the age of commitments in prisons and reformatories, such as from 25 to 29, would show still greater dissimilarities.

Of the Italian males in urban centers in 1920, only 5 per cent were under 15 years of age, and 88.2 per cent between the ages of 15 and 59, whereas 91.5 per cent were 20 years of age and over. On the other hand, of the native whites of native parentage in the country, 38 per cent were under 15 years of age, as compared to less than 4 per cent for the foreign-born whites." (1)

4. Fallacy of Reporting Nationalities. - Another point which should be considered is the rather frequent practice of police officers of assigning to offenders a nationality different from the one to which they belong. This point is stressed in the National Report as follows: "It is believed that the exceptionally high commitment ratio for the Mexicans is somewhat in excess of the ratio which would be obtained if it were possible to eliminate from the figures prisoners of Mexican stock born in the United States but erroneously reported as of Mexican birth. Such cases may have been fairly numerous." (2)

(1) Schiavo, G.,- What Crime Statistics Show About Italians, - p. 12.
(2) National Crime Commission -The Relation of the Police and the Courts to the Crime Problem,- p. 94.

What applies to the Mexicans applies with equal force to the Italians, the Irish and other foreign-born. Some English-speaking immigrants, whose foreign birth was not easily indicated by their speech would probably be called "American"; but on the other hand, quite as many American-born citizens who had loyally kept their foreign names or spoke with a foreign accent would undoubtedly be called Italians, Polish, or Russian.

5. Fallacy of Percentage Computation - Another fallacy may be found in the tendency to compute everything on a percentage basis. The Roumanians, for example, in 1923 had only 22 commitments in prisons and reformatories; yet, their ratio was 21.4, almost equal to that of the Italians (25.9) with 417 commitments. The Germans, on the other hand, with 127 commitments had a ratio of 7.5, likewise the Belgians with only 7 commitments had a ratio of 11.2. It is realized of course, that the Germans in 1920 outnumbered the Roumanians 16 to 1, and the Belgians 27 to 1, but to establish comparisons on such small units is to disregard the principles of statistics. Professor Chaddock, in his book on "Principles and Methods of Statistics" says, "in a publication of a leading American university, some years ago, it

was stated that, '33$\frac{1}{3}$ per cent of the women students had married into the faculty of the institution.'" Of course, the important information was the number of women students. There were only three. "When dealing with a small number of cases," adds Professor Chaddock, "the use of percentage alone leads to wrong conclusions." (1)

(d)-Our Double Standard of Justice - Another factor that tends to prove the unreliability of statistics and another which is favorable to the side of foreigners is what Professor Mahoney of Boston University calls, "our double standard of justice." (2) By this is meant that people who have money and influence in the United States can "beat the law", and never have their offenses apprehended or put down in black and white in the statistical records. Now, it is very likely that, by far, the great percentage that practices this clandestine method of "beating the law" is comprised of people from the so-called "respectable class." It is clear then that one can not actually obtain the true or "cold facts" regarding crime because of our "double-standard of justice."

Of course, the reader will immediately contradict the point just made on the grounds that this "double-standard

(1) Chaddock, R. E., - Principles and Methods of Statistics, - p. 14.
(2) Mahoney, Prof. John J., - Lecture, Causes of Lawlessness, Boston University, Feb. 23, 1933.

of justice" is also practiced by the foreign-born, referring undoubtedly, to that notorious personage, Al Capone and his many episodes in "beating the law". But, it is not unlikely that this group of racketeers constitutes a relativly small portion of the foreign-born who are prominent in crime. The foreign-born in crime, as a whole, are incapable of practicing this delicate art.

To strengthen my point it is necessary to go back to the well-known Italian criminal organizations, the Camorra and Mafia, which, by the way, are today practically extinct in the United States and Italy. The Wickersham Commission reports that these Black Hand gangs "are practically unknown in Massachusetts." (1) Continuing, it is very likely that the available statistics of today and the last ten years include prisoners who landed in jail because of connections with these Black Hand groups. The reader must realize that these criminal organizations had been new arrivals in our country, and therefore could not have possibly acquainted themselves with the methods and procedures of "beatin the law" in very quick time. Again, the inadequacy of statistics presents itself.

(1) Report on Crime and the Foreign-born -- National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement, - p. 56.

C:-Proportion of Italian Commitments to All Penal Institutions

To ascertain the ratios of Italians and other groups by offense, which is indicated in Table III (see page 81), the following data should be considered in connection with the figures in Table III:

Total Population 18 Years of Age and Over (1)

	Both Sexes	Male
Total	66,408,602	34,092,117
Native White ...	47,085,009	23,715,471
Italians	1,500,000	880,000

Table III shows that the Italians have a higher ratio than the total population and the native white in assault, homicide, rape, violations of drug and liquor laws. They have a lower rate for total offenses, robbery, butglary, larceny, and forgery. But the table also shows that compared to native whites they have a lower proportion when the ratio is figured on males alone. In other words, whereas the ratio for male native whites is about 90 per cent higher than the ratio for both sexes, the ratio for the Italian males is less than 70 per cent higher than for both sexes.

But the table does not take into consideration the distribution by urban centers or the correct age. Were it

(1) Schiavo, G., - What Crime Statistics Show About Italians, - p. 17.

TABLE III

COMMITMENTS TO PENAL INSTITUTIONS

Offenses with Ratio per 100,000 of Total Population		COMMITMENTS TO ST. PENAL INSTI'S					Ratio Per 100,000				ITALIANS Per Cent of Total Commitments
			Native Whites		ITALIANS		Native Whites		ITALIANS		
		Total	Both Sexes	Male	Both Sexes	Male	Both Sexes	Male	Both Sexes	Male	
31.5	All Offenses	19,080	11,825	11,118	417	405	25.1	46.8	27.8	45.9	2.18
1.5	Assault	959	350	348	52	50	*	1.4	3.4	5.6	5.42
2.8	Homicide	1748	774	740	77	76	1.6	3.1	5.1	8.6	4.4
5.3	Burglary	3217	1955	1944	34	34	4.1	8.2	2.2	3.8	1.0
5.8	Larceny	3545	2358	2274	24	23	5.0	9.5	1.6	2.6	*
2.0	Forgery	1345	1015	983	6	6	2.1	4.1	*	*	*
*	Fornication Prostitution	223	154	19	3	*	*	*	*	*	1.2
1.2	Rape	779	508	496	25	25	1.0	2.0	1.6	2.8	4.9
1.8	Violation Drug Laws	1107	583	533	51	51	1.2	2.2	3.4	5.7	4.6
2.2	Violation Liquor Laws	1380	824	796	35	32	1.7	3.3	2.3	3.6	2.5
*	Non-Support	143	114	95	3	3	*	*	*	*	*
2.4	Robbery	1503	992	986	23	22	2.1	4.1	1.5	2.5	1.5

* Less Than 1 Per Cent

possible to obtain the ratios on those bases, the figures for the Italians would appear still lower, although it is still doubtful whether their higher ratios in homicide, assault, rape, and violations of drug and liquor laws would disappear.

It is not advisable, however, to generalize on the above ratios. Crime is the product of so many factors, such as environment, circumstances, economic and social conditions, that to assert that the Italians as a whole have a higher rate for specific offenses is very dangerous.

The Italians would represent a problem for the United States if they committed a large share of the crimes comitted every year in the country, but as Table III shows, in 1923 they were represented in prisons and reformatories by only 2.18 per cent of the total number of commitments and by only 1.9 per cent in all penal institutions. Even in the offenses in which they had a higher ratio, their commitments represented a small fraction of the total. In homicides, for example, their per cent was 4.4, and in violations of liquor laws 2.5. They were almost absent in larceny, burglary, forgery, and had only 23 commitments for robbery out of a total of 1503.

D:-Homicides

In the case of homicides, only a few of the assassins are ever apprehended. This fact, coupled with many other factors, has led to the creation of the myth that the Italians contribute a preponderantly high number of victims of murder in the United States.

Unfortunately there are no statistics for the whole country on which one could reach a conclusion, one way or the other. But there is enough evidence to reveal that the largest number of murders, in proportion to population, are committed in communities having an insignificant number of foreign-born, and especially of Italians.

Such evidence is available in the homicide records prepared annually by Mr. Frederick L. Hoffman and the reports prepared by the Bureau of Census.

We shall take first the latest report of Mr. Hoffman, that for 1929, which appeared in "The Spectator" for March 20, 1930.

The following tables give only the number of whites, negroes and foreign-born convicted of homicide. The number of the victims of murder has not been taken into account. One should bear in mind however, that a much higher proportion of white murderers compared to Negroes in the South

escapes punishment.

These tables will also show that native whites, of pure Anglo-Saxon stock, also commit a large number of murders when they are in an unfavorable environment and under trying circumstances.

Note--Table IV (1), will be found on page 93-94.

(1) Hoffman, F. L., "The Spectator", March 20, 1930.

TABLE IV

50 CITIES HAVING THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE
OF MURDERS, per 100,000.

	Ratio	Italian Stock
Memphis, Tenn.....	66.8	2,952
Augusta, Ga.....	54.7	92
Birmingham, Ala.....	51.3	3,776
Atlanta, Ga.....	51.0	219
Jacksonville, Fla.....	46.9	345
Savannah, Ga.....	40.0	253
Lexington, Ky.	39.	149
Shreveport, La.	34.4	671
Little Rock, Ark.	34.1	180
Mobile, Ala.	30.2	184
New Orleans, La.	28.9	1,818
Covington, Ky.	28.8	177
Houston, Texas.....	27.6	3,370
Charleston, S. C.	26.4	320
Macon, Ga.	26.1	120
Kansas City, Mo.	24.8	7,804
El Paso, Texas.....	24.6	216
San Antonio, Texas.....	24.5	1,368
Nashville, Tenn.	23.6	266
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	23.2	5,691
Roanoke, Va.	23.2	96
Miami, Fla.	22.3	161
Louisville, Ky.	21.3	1,243
Tampa, Fla.	19.4	6,053
Fort Worth, Texas.....	19.3	390
Gary, Indiana.....	19.1	1,694
Detroit, Mich.	18.6	29,047
Petersburg, Va.	18.5	50
Sacramento, Cal.	18.5	3,791
Dallas, Texas.....	17.9	1,534
Winston-Salem, N. C.	17.5	8
Evansville, Ind.	17.3	91
Knoxville, Tenn.	17.1	101
Kansas City, Kans.	15.2	294
Norfolk, Va.	15.2	1,131
Terre Haute, Ind.	15.0	110
Springfield, Ill.	13.4	1,100
Youngstown, Ohio.....	13.2	11,877
Chicago, Ill.	12.7	124,184
St. Louis, Mo.	12.4	18,284
Cleveland, Ohio.....	11.9	35,687
Albany, N. Y.	11.6	6,506
Toledo, Ohio.....	11.5	1,536
Pueblo, Colo.	11.3	2,322

(cont.)

TABLE IV (cont.)

Cities	Ratio	Italian Stock
Canton, Ohio	11.1	3,958
Washington, D. C.	10.7	7,500
Baltimore, Md.	10.7	16,489
Richmond, Va.	10.3	1,282
Akron, Ohio	10.0	6,366
Hamtramck, Mich.	10.0	165

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TABLE V (1)

50 CITIES HAVING THE LOWEST PERCENTAGE OF MURDERS, per 100,000

	Ratio	Italian Stock
Brockton, Mass.	--	3,686
Concord, N. H.	--	---
Lincoln, Neb.	--	195
Manchester, N. H.	--	262
Newton, Mass.	--	3,218
Newport, R. I.	--	1,103
Orange, N. J.	--	7,331
Pawtucket, R. I.	--	1,988
Quincy, Mass.	--	5,121
Reading, Pa.	--	3,598
Salem, Mass.	--	927
Utica, N. Y.	--	16,865
Lowell, Mass.	0.9	825
St. Paul, Minn.	0.8	3,515
Allentown, Pa.	1.0	1,979
Berkeley, Cal.	1.4	1,428
Binghamton, N. Y.	1.3	2,258
Erie, Pa.	1.4	5,039
Lakewood, Ohio	1.5	95
Lansing, Mich.	1.3	345
Lawrence, Mass.	1.1	14,687
Somerville, Mass.	1.0	7,307
Springfield, Mass.	1.3	8,706
Topeka, Kan.	1.6	61
New Bedford, Mass.	1.7	1,227
Bridgeport, Conn.	1.9	17,576
Malden, Mass.	1.9	2,329
Pittsfield, Mass.	2.0	3,751

(cont.)

(1) Hoffman, F. L., "The Spectator", March 20, 1930.

TABLE V (cont.)

	Ratio	Italian Stock
Bayonne, N. J.	2.1	6,120
Minneapolis, Minn.	2.2	1,577
Salt Lake City, Utah ..	2.2	970
Grand Rapids, Mich. ...	2.4	1,097
Rockford, Ill.	2.4	4,875
Syracuse, N. Y.	2.5	13,681
Quincy, Ill.	2.5	89
Elizabeth, N. J.	2.6	7,643
Oakland, Cal.	2.6	9,940
Rochester, N. Y.	2.7	36,731
Auburn, N. Y.	2.7	3,881
Paterson, N. J.	2.8	22,936
Providence, R.I.	2.8	42,018
Hoboken, N. J.	2.8	16,007
Altoona, Pa.	2.9	3,273
Boston, Mass.	2.9	77,105
Worcester, Mass.	3.0	8,769
Jersey City, N.J.	3.1	33,767
Fresno, Cal.	3.1	2,472
Milwaukee, Wis.	3.1	7,843
Portland, Ore.	3.1	5,142
Pasadena, Cal.	3.2	127

The table on page 94 prepared by the Bureau of Census for 1920, also shows that there is no direct relationship between our total Italian population and the ratio of homicides committed per 100,000 of population.

TABLE VI (1)

HOMICIDES COMMITTED IN 35 STATES OF THE UNION
(Bureau of Census, Pathology Statistics, 1920)

States	Total Population of State	Total Homicides	Ratio per 100,000	Total Italian Population of State	Percentage of Italian Population
Florida	968,470	198	20.95	4,745	0.49
Mississippi	1,790,618	354	19.87	1,841	0.13
So. Carolina	1,683,724	258	15.32	344	0.02
Louisiana	1,798,509	254	14.02	16,624	0.90
Tennessee	2,337,885	324	13.87	2,079	0.09
Virginia	2,309,187	260	11.27	2,435	0.11
Dist. of Col.	437,571	46	10.50	3,764	0.86
No. Carolina	2,559,123	252	9.84	453	0.02
Colorado	939,629	87	9.26	12,579	1.34
Kentucky	2,416,630	218	9.03	1,932	0.08
Montana	548,889	46	8.39	3,842	0.70
Missouri	3,404,055	267	7.87	14,609	0.43
Illinois	6,485,208	480	7.41	94,407	1.45
Ohio	5,759,394	402	7.29	60,658	1.05
Michigan	3,668,412	105	6.82	30,216	0.80
Penn.	8,720,017	493	5.72	222,764	2.58
Washington	1,356,621	70	5.16	10,813	0.80
Utah	449,396	23	5.11	3,325	0.72
Maryland	1,494,661	70	4.83	9,783	0.58
Kansas	1,769,257	84	4.75	3,355	0.19
Indiana	2,930,390	138	4.71	6,712	0.23
New York	10,385,227	478	4.61	545,173	5.25
New Jersey	3,155,900	134	4.24	157,285	4.98
Nebraska	1,296,372	54	4.17	3,547	0.27
Oregon	783,389	32	4.09	4.324	0.55
Connecticut	1,380,631	54	3.91	80,322	0.58
Delaware	223,003	9	3.87	4,136	1.78
Minnesota	2,387,125	74	3.10	7,432	0.31
Vermont	353,428	8	2.27	4,067	1.15
Massachusetts	3,852,356	82	2.13	117,007	3.03
Rhode Island	604,397	11	1.82	32,241	5.33
New Hampshire	443,083	8	1.81	2,074	0.47
Wisconsin	2,632,076	44	1.67	11,187	0.40
Total&Average	85,201,571	5,815	6.83	968,795	1.14

Average Homicides per 100,000 inhabitants in 35 states ...6.83
Average Homicides of 28 Cities with a population of 20,921,000 for the year 1921 .....9.30
Average Homicides of 28 Cities with a population of 20,921,000 for the year 1922 .....9.00

(1) Stella, A., Some Aspects of Italian Immigration - p. 82. (Taken from Bureau of Census, 1920)

Rather the reverse is true as in the twelve states where criminality is highest, the percentage of the Italian population is lowest, and vice versa, as can be seen in the following table:

TABLE VII (1)

	Ratio of Homicides per 100,000	Percentage of Italian Population
Twelve States with Highest Ratio of Homicides.....	12.1	0.31
Twelve States with Lowest Ratio of Homicides.....	3.60	3.52
Average for All States....	6.83	1.14

If it were possible to apprehend all the perpetrators of the 7,000 to 8,000 murders committed annually in the United States, it would probably appear that the Italian residents would not lead with the highest ratio.

Were it possibly to compile statistics by nationality of the victims of homicides, I am inclined to believe that such data would show that the great majority of Italian murders in the United States are committed in only a few great cities. Were it possible to go still further, it would probably also appear that whereas the Italians in all large cities are scattered throughout the city, Italian murders

(1) Stella, A., - Some Aspects of Italian Immigration,- p. 83.

take place in a restricted section of the Italian community.

Recent evidence in confirmation of this point was given by publication in August, 1930, by a New York newspaper, of the list of the victims of homicides in the various boroughs of the city of New York. From that list it appeared that "although there are one million Italians in Gotham, well distributed throughout the five boroughs, Brooklyn and Manhattan had most of the Italian victims. The Bronx and Queens, with a population of perhaps more than 300,000 Italians, had only 6 Italian victims of homicides." (1)

E:-Bootlegging.

The following table illustrates the proportion of Italian commitments to all penal institutions in 1923 for violation of the liquor laws:

TABLE VIII (2)

COMMITMENTS TO PENAL INSTITUTIONS

	A Total	B Prisons and Reformatories	C Jails and Workhouses	Italian Proportion of Total		
				A	B	C
All Classes	18,239	1,280	16,859	5.5%	2.5%	4.7%
Italians	830	35	795			

Table VIII shows that the great majority of Italian commitments for violation of the liquor laws were to jails

(1) Schiavo, G., - What Crime Statistics Show About Italians, - p. 25.
(2) Schiavo, G., - What Crime Statistics Show About Italians, - p. 23.

and workhouses, with a percentage of 4.7 of the total. Those of major offenses, on the other hand represented less than 2.5 per cent of the total. Again, here one should recall that age and urban distribution have not been considered. Liquor laws are primarily violated in large cities, where the occupations of the inhabitants are not commonly known. In a small town, on the other hand, it is very difficult for a man, whether native or foreign-born, to conceal the source of his income.

F:-The Second Generation and Crime.

It is often asserted that, granting that the foreign-born do not commit more crimes than the native-born whites, the children of the immigrants do. Here again, the impression is at most the product of guess work, because there are no statistics to show what proportion of the native white commitments in penal institutions are of foreign parentage.

"Perhaps the only state prison reports that give the nativity of the parents of prisoners, are those for Massachusetts, Wisconsin and Illinois. A table based on the reports of the agencies of the three states above mentioned follows:" (1)

(1) Schiavo, G., - What Crime Statistics Show About Italians, - 26.

TABLE IX (1)

Institution	Year	Total Pop. in State in 1920	Foriegn White Stock in the State		Commitments by Nativity of Parents	
			Total	Per cent	Native	Foreign
Illinois State Prison	1928	6,485,280	3,232,770	49%	61,3	36.5
So. Illinois State Prison	1928	2,632,067			79.1	12.2
Wisconsin State Prison	1928	2,632,076	1,562,244	59%	50.0	49.0
Massachusetts State Prison	1928	3,852,256	2,572,751	67%	36.0	64.0

Some exceptions may be taken to the fact that in the preceding table the year of the commitments is 1928, whereas that for total population is for 1920, but that should show very little difference, for the foreign-born stock seems to have a higher birth rate than the native-born and therefore very little variation in the composition of the total population may have occurred during the eight year period.

Table IX shows conclusively that all the talk of the criminality of Americans of foreign parentage is based on guess work. Once more, in the above table we have not taken into account age and urban distribution, which would change the ratio more in favor of the foreign-born.

(1) Schiavo, G., - What Crime Statistics Show About Italians, - p. 26-27.

The National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement reports on page 190: " In general the report of the Illinois Crime Survey indicates that comparatively few of the gangsters are foreign-born, but that a hig proportion of them are sons of foreign-born parents, reared in the slums of American cities." (1)

But, on the same page, we read; "Very little time could be spent on inquiries in connection with this statistical. However, a number of persons were questioned, and some records were consulted in an attempt to determine the actual nativity of the well-publicized 28 "public enemies" of Chicago. The net result of these inquires was to establish a conviction that positive and authentic information on this subject is nowhere available. The inquirer was advised to scrutinize the names by which the men are known as a basis for forming conclusions. But one of Chicago's best-known gangsters years ago adopted a name that no one could mistake for anything but one of Irish origin. The man who bears it is officially reported to have been born in Minnesota of French-Canadian parents. In a New York prison is a notorious gunman serving a life term, the death sentence he received having been commuted. His name, on the prison records and in the columns of the daily papers, has an Eng-

(1) National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement - Crime and the Foreign-born, - p. 190.

lish ring. His real name, probably discarded for practical reasons, is said to be a long one, Polish, and difficult of spelling and pronounciation. Such examples could be duplicated many times. Names are misleading." (1) On page 193, the writer in referring to the same subject says: "The data on this subject are fragmentary and insufficient for the formation of any conclusions. They strangly indicate the possible value of an unprejuciced scientific inquiry in this special field in all the principal cities." (2)

It is clear then, that all available statistics attempting to prove that the second generation of foreign-born are preponderantly outstanding in crime are ill-founded and untrue.

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER

From what has been said in the foregoing chapter about the Italians and their prominence in crime we may deduce the following statemants:

1. The impression, that the foreign-born have a high crime rate, can be traced to two sources: (a) newspapers, (b) statistics of arrest, charges, convictions and prisoners.
2. Newspaper accounts of crime do not reflect crime condi-

(1) National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement - Crime and the Foreign-born, - p. 190.
(2) National Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement - Crime and the Foreign-born, - p. 193.

tions in the United States. To base one's conclusions on newspaper accounts is to ignore the real problem.

3. As criminal statistics at present are very inadequate one should be rather wary when using them. It is said that one can prove almost anything with criminal statistics.

4. On the basis of total population in the United States, foreigners commit more minor crimes, the native-born more major crimes - this conclusion is based on the 1923 Prisoners report of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

5. States having the largest proportion of foreign population have a smaller percentage of all major crimes, but states having the smallest proportion of foreign-born population were leading in major crimes.

6. Comparisons between foreign groups have no value unless such factors as sex, age, urban distribution, error probabilities and other factors are taken into consideration.

7. Italian commitments of both sexes show a higher ratio per 100,000 population than the native whites, but when Italian male commitments alone are considered (there were only 12 Italian women in state prisons) the Italians show a lower ratio than the native whites both for jails and workhouses as well as prisons and reformatories. If the

urban distribution of the Italians were to be taken into account the Italian ratio would appear much lower.

8. The Italians, however, have a higher ratio in assault, homicide, rape, and violations of drug and liquor laws. They have a lower rate for total offenses, burglary, larceny, and robbery.

9. Notwithstanding their high ratio in proportion to population, Italian commitments represent only 1.9 per cent of all commitments to all institutions, 2.18 per cent of the commitments to prisons and reformatories, 4.4 per cent of commitments for homicide, 2.5 per cent of commitments for violation of liquor laws. The Italians in 1920 represented about 1.5 per cent of the total population and 3.7 per cent of the adult male population.

10. Detailed statistics for individual penal institutions reveal that, whereas in some states the Italians have a very high rate of commitments, in many others they are almost absent.

11. Italians have a large number of commitments for violation of liquor laws in jails and workhouses, but only 35 commitments, out of a total of 1380, in prisons and reformatories. In other words, Italian violations of liquor laws were minor offenses.

12. It is out of the question to establish at present to what extent the children of immigrants contribute to the number of prisoners in state prisons and reformatories. As a matter of fact, the few reports available on the subject lead us to believe that the children of the foreign-born in the United States do not have a higher crime rate than the children of native parentage.

We may conclude therefore that: 1. as regards the foreign-born whites in this country, they commit more minor crimes but fewer major crimes than the native whites; 2. as regards the Italians, they commit a smaller proportion of both minor and major offenses than the native whites. In certain specific offenses, however, they have a higher rate than the native whites. In other words, the Italians as a whole can be considered law-abiding people, especially if we take into account the fact that most of the major crimes committed by Italians take place in large cities where they can be attributed to the influence of environment rather than to race or tradition.

To counterbalance some of these rather unfavorable conclusions, a few things in favor of the Italians can be strongly emphasized. Root, in his article on "Prisoners in the Western Penitentiary ofPennsylvannia" states, "The most important of these is willingness to work, to learn, to im-

prove, and to change. Italian disciplinary cases are rare and they are among the most eager, willing and persistent students in the penitentiary school. The most outstanding point in favor of the Italian group in the Western Penitentiary is that the number of habitual criminal cases is far smaller relatively than it is for the native whites, including the American born Italians. Professional criminals are almost unknown in the Italian group. Their crimes are seldom planned beforehand, but are usually committed on the spur of the moment, under emotional stress. Taking it all in all, the Italian as a criminal is far less dangerous than the native white." (1)

Well has the Wickersham Commission stated in its recent report on crime among the foreign-born that the tendency to make the immigrant and the children of the immigrant the scapegoats for the defects in our own system of law enforcement is as old as America itself.

"At various points in our history", the report says, "this impulse has become especially acute and had important political and economic consequences. But.... it is interesting to note that each time the outcry is raised, "Americans", for whom America is to be reserved, include the descendants of a former generation of immigrants against whom the same

(1) Root, William Thomas. A psychological and Educational survey of prisoners in the Western Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, 1927. pp. 218-238.

outcry was earlier raised as a basis of discrimination or exclusion. Each generation of immigrants had had to be freshmen in the college of American citizenship.....It is easier to charge our crime record against immigrants than against an inefficient and corrupt system of police and an outworn system of criminal justice." (1)

(1) Report on Crime and the Foreign-born - National Commission on Law and Observance and Enforcement, - p. 5.

CHAPTER V

ITALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES

A:-Rise of the Italians in America.

The rise of the Italian-Americans in the United States has been an inspiring incident in contemporary American history. In an incredibly brief period the Italians have mounted in increasing numbers to many honored positions in American life. We must not forget that the Italians were the last of the great streams of immigration that flowed into this land in the closing decades of the 19th century. Arriving as the last-comers, the Italian found themselves forced to compete with races already firmly established in American economic life. Their language was a barrier. They had to overcome the strangeness of their Latin racial manners and customs.

Especially, were they handicapped by thefact that they sprang in the main, from the poor classes of Italy. There were, at first, few professional men - few men of distinction, "they passed from the steerage into the most squalid and unwholesome slums of our great cities. They began on the humblest rung of the American social ladder - diggers of ditches, miners, common laborers - the comic "Wops" of yesterday's unthinking jests.

"From such beginning as these they have risen. Certain-

ly, a weaker race would have succumbed in the struggle. In the face of misunderstanding and friendlessness, in this perplexing America, of which the early immigrants saw only the ugliest and most vicious backwash, a humbler people would have resigned itself permanently to the social and economic inferiority which was thrust upon it.

No so with the Italians. Smiling, they, in the face of rebuffs, struggling with unwearying patience to adapt themselves to the inexorable conditions of American life, slowly breaking down barriers of discrimination and hostility by the sheer example of their industry and good will, never for one moment losing faith in themselves and their historic race, the Italians won through to the conquest of their environment." (1)

Over this human bridge of devotion and superb will, the Itdian-Americans of today have reached their present status. Certainly, the achievement has justified the sacrifice. "Today it is estimated that 60,000 men and women of Italian origin are enrolled in the American professions." (2) The Italian figure actually represents a higher proportion of professional men than the ratio for the nation as a whole. Scattered throughout the United States, there are, according to this estimate, 24,000 Italian-American lawyers, 17,000

(1) Varney, H. L., - Italians in Contempory America, - p. 3-4.
(2) "Bollettino Della Sera" - New York -March 26, 1931.

pharmacists, 14,500 physicians and dentists, 2,000 engineers, 2,8000 teachers and members of other smaller professional groups. They have attained many of the most distinguished professional honors in the gift of their colleagues.

B:-Contributions.

(a) - The Italian "Pioneer" -- It is fitting and proper that the foremost contribution should be credited to the Italian "pioneer". The "pioneer" is the Italian who was the first to arrive in the United States from Italy, and who was instrumental in the building of our magnificent America. He was the ditch-digger, the pick-and-shovel expert who risked and oftentimes sacrificed his life in the erection of our outstanding engineering projects of today. His contribution, without a doubt, was the greatest among all the sons of Italy. Without his sacrifices the Modern American of Italian extraction would not have attained its present status.

He lived in penury in order that his boys and girls might go to college and become doctors, lawyers, or teachers, or any other profession, as long as they would not have to suffer the same hardships that he had experienced. For himself, he accepted the inevitable fate of poverty and economic subordination: for his children he demanded the most exalted prizes in American life. And he paid the price for his dream, in toil, humiliation, and the squalid heartless-

ness of the slum.

These sturdy pioneers have not been given even passing attention by us. They should be the most highly honored of all of Italy's sons. "Herman Feldman, in his book on 'Racial Factors in American Industry', says, "the Italian has been the most generally abused of all the foreign-born----. And, perhaps more than the people of any other immigrant nationality, have done the hard and dangerous work in the community. Yet the result is heartless disregard for him, partly because he is only a "foreigner".

"The Italian immigrant may be maimed and killed in his industrial occupation without a cry and without indemnity. He may die from the "bends" working in the caissons under the river, without protest; he can be slowly asphyxiated in crowded tenements, smothered in dangerous trades and occupations, he can contract tuberculosis in unsanitary factories and sweat-shops, without a murmur; and then to do this country an additional favor, when he is so disabled and sick, he goes back to his mother country to die." (1)

After the collapse of the scaffolding for a new building in New York, an editorial appeared in "The Nation" recently, expressing a feeling which very few of us have ever possessed in respect to the Italian "pioneer". It ran as follows: "a body is recovered; that of Boccarossi. Then

(1) Feldman, H., - Racial Factors in American Industry, p. 157-158.

another dead is dragged away: Purcelli; athird whose name was Brigliano, and a fourth - Colarossi. Then there were the wounded: Disomilli, Marzoni, Costello, Dimmello, Socci, Maselli -- all Italian names. But why? Nobody asked for what reason there were no English, Scandinavian, or German workers among those crushed under death's heel." (1)

Probably there was nothing unusual about this accident. It received only passing notice in the daily press, and was forgotten a few seconds later by the average reader. It was one of a long series of accidents -- avoidable or otherwise -- that represent the human cost of modern construction.

The editorial continued, "every mile of subway in New York City, every tunnel under the East or North River was blasted and burrowed and thrust forward with the blood of human sacrifice. The vast excavation which made possible the terminal of the Pennsylvania Railroad in the heart of the metropolis is the tomb of scores of humble laborers from the blue coast of the Mediterranean.

"It was not mere chance that put in those murderous foundations, those Italian workingmen. They are to be found wherever there is risk and danger. Some of their blood is at the bottom of all this rising greatness.

"We are deeply moved in bowing to these victims who give their lives to this country. And we think that on their

(1) Aliens?, - The Nation, - June 25, 1924 -p. 725-726.

tombstones the words 'American Citizen' should be engraved even if they could not speak English. They have paid their right to citizenship." (1)

This is a sentiment to which every American ought humbly and reverently to say, Amen!

(b) - Characteristics - In attempting to cite the specific contributions of character of the Italians to the United States, it is necessary to first describe the characteristics of the Northern and the Southern Italians. The Italian of the northern Italy differs from his southern brother just as the inhabitant of Massachusetts differs from the inhabitant of Mississippi, even though Italy includes a much smaller area than the United States.

In the first chapter (2) it was explained how the Northern Italian had been endowed with the more progressive and cultural section of Italy. It is doubtless then, that he deserves his reputation for being enterprising, shrewd, and progressive. He is apt to look down upon his southern brother as slow, lazy and ignorant, while the southernor, from the poverty of his meager environment, thinks of his brother in the north as "grasping and rapacious, as obtaining undue governmental favors throug the tariff laws for his factories and industrial enterprises, and as escaping his share of

(1) Aliens?, - The Nation - June 25, 1924 - p. 726.

(2) Pages 7-8.

taxation, which falls so heavily upon the farmer of the south." (1) Nevertheless, both groups still maintain their early characteristics in America, and are equally and justly proud of their martyred ancestors.

Since the very greater part of our Italian neighbors are products of the south of Italy it is very probable that the influence of character on American life is chiefly effected by them.

The reason for the prevalence of a very low percentage of northern Italians is evident. Endowed with a good economic and social status they have been quite content with life in their native land and have, therefore, not resorted to emigration in such large numbers as their southern neighbors.

Although we are aware of the fact that this large group of Italians from Southern Italy is intellectually and culturally inferior to the Northern Italians we must not feel that we have been burdened by an inferior group of Latins. They have instilled into American life many traits of character which have benefitted America to a good extent.

The outstanding contributions of the immigrant Italians to American life are also those of his offspring, representing the second generation of Americans. The results of a symposium conducted by Professor Mariano showed that these outstanding contributions were: "thrift, reliability, depen-

(1) Clark, F. E., - Our Italian Fellow-Citizen, -p. 118.

dability, steadiness, soberness of character, consistent labor, conscientous application to the daily tasks of life however simple, frugality, sobriety, and patience. Little if at all subordinate to these are the qualities of joviality, lightsomeness of heart, optimism, cheeriness, high fraternalship, sympathy, warmth, and hospitality. All of these are equally marked.

"It is the Italian's geniality and romantic high-spiritedness that brings out his artistic sensitiveness. The traits of musical appreciation, of sculpture, of the plastic arts, of love for the drama, of courtesy, of highmindedness - these are all parts of his traditions. His love for beauty, his thoughtfulness when not operating under too severe economic pressure, his deferential demeanor are not assumed mannerisms. They are instinctive though they "slough off in an American environment." The Italian is emotionally rich. This is his great psychical contribution to American democracy." (1)

In closing this phase of this chapter it would be well to quote the observation of Miss Lillian Brandt, made some years ago on the nature of the adjustment of the second generation of Americans in an American environment. Miss Brandt writes:

"Surely an unprejudiced scrutiny of the American type

(1) Mariano, J. H., - Italian Contribution to American Dimocracy, - p. 276-277.

does not establish the conviction that there is nothing further to be desired. There are points at which we are suceptible of improvement, there are qualities of which we have only a faint trace for whose possession we should be justified in making some sacrifice. The Italians have a delight in simple pleasures, and appreciation for other things than mere financial success, a sense of beauty, a kindliness and social grace which would not be wholly unendurable additions to our predominant traits." (1)

(c) - Specific Contributions - So long is the list of Italian individual contributions to Americanlife that it would necessitate a separate volume. The outstanding personages in their respective fields wil only thus be mentioned in this paper.

1. Art and Music - It is characteristic of the Italians, with their racial preëminence in the arts, that they have made a deep imprint in the artictic and musical life of America. Among the earliest Italians of note to visit America in the opening decades of the 19th century were itinerant Italian music teachers and Italian artists. From the beginning, Italians have identified themselves with every important artistic development in the United States. The superb murals and decorations in the National Capitol at Washington, and in the Library of Congress, are largely the work

(1) Brandt, Lillian, - "A Transplanted Birthright of the Second Generationed Italians in an American Environment, - Charities ⊖ 1904. p. 499.

of Luigi Persico, Brumidi and Benani, forgotten Italian artists. "Italian sculptors and painters are today doing important work in practically every major American city." (1)

Throughout our history the American people have paid homage to Italian musical genius in the distinction which they have accorded to Italian musicians on our operatic stage, and in the symphony orchestras of our cities. The list of the members of the outstanding orchestras of America today is a roll-call of Italian names.

In the operatic field, Italian names that will live for some time to come are: Schipa, Caruso, Tatrazzini, Galli-Curci, Ruffo, Ponselle, with their golden voeces; Toscannini, and John Philip Sousa, the late march king, with their magic batons; and a long list of instrumental soloists. So important is the Italian contribution to American musical and artistic development that an eminent authority is preparing a separate publication on the subject.

2. Politics - The respect with which Italian-Americans have won from the older American groups is evidenced by the great number of Americans of Italian descent who have been chosen to American public office. A few years ago, an Italian in political office was a rarity. Today, each seccessive election witnesses the elevation of a large number of

(1) Varney, L. H., - Italians in Contemporary America, - p. 14.

Italians to high political honors.

A directory prepared by the Italian Historical Society (1) of New York City, and which is by no means complete, shows that there are ten Italian-Americans who hold federal positions. Four of this group of ten are members of Congress: Fiorello La Guardia of New York City, Peter Cavicchis of Newark, N. J., Peter Granata of Chicago, Ill., and Vincent Palmisano of Baltimore, Maryland. Two, B. D. Nicola of New York City, and Nicholas Pette of Cleveland, Ohio are United States Commissioners. The remaining four are: Edward Corsi, of New York City, Commissioner of Immigration; Ugo Carusi of Barre, Vermont, Assistant to the Attorney General; Alfred Burri of Mr. Vernon, New York, the Unites States Consul at Baranquilla; and John Mucci, of Providence, R. I., United States Consul at Shanghai.

The directory shows that 45 Italian-Americans hold positions as judges in the supreme, district, municipal, juvenile, and other courts scattered throughout the country. Among the wellknown ones are: Salvatore Cottilo, of the New York Supreme Court; Frank Leveroni, of the Boston Juvenile Court; Joseph Zottoli, of the Boston District Court; John Sbarbaro, of the Chicago Municipal Court; and John J. Freschi, of the New York Court of General Sessions.

As to state positions. Seven are members of State

(1) Varney, H. L., - Italians in Contemporary America - pub. by- Italian Historical Society, N. Y.

Senates, thirty-five of State Legislatures, and ten hold miscellaneous state offices.

Twenty-two Italian-American mayors of cities are listed in the directory. Prominent ones are Angelo Rossi, Mayor of San Francisco, Cal., Andrew Casassa of Revere, Mass., and Cesare Scavada of Flint, Michigan.

The directory also lists the following:

38 County Officers
36 City Officers
30 Members of Boards of Aldermen
33 Members of Boards of Education
26 Commissioned Officers in the United States Army.

3. Education - The Italians have taken full advantage of the educational opportunities offered them in democratic America. There is today a growing army of Italian boys and girls preparing for the professions

"A questionnaire which was recently sent to the local school authorities of the country, yielded the information that the number of pupils of Italians parentage enrolled in the high schools of only ten of the states in 1930 totalled 9,297. This figure compares with a total of 8,629 in the same schools in the preceding term and 7,682, in 1929.

"A similar questionnaire, sent to the universities and higher institutions of learning of 31 of the states, yielded the information that a total of 4,288 Italo-American pupils were enrolled in these institutions in 1930. These statis-

tics, partial and incomplete as they may be indicate the increasing eagerness with which the second generation of Italians in America are taking advantage of American educational opportunities." (1)

Not only are these second generation Italians infusing their many admirable characteristics into the American schools but they are also taking an active part in the outside activities of the same. Their artistic, administrative, and physical qualities enable them togreatly assist in these programs. As an example, "The Boston Post" (2) of November 29, 1932, included in its sporting section, an All-Italian Football team, selected from the leading colleges of the country. It is evident that the second generation of Italians are rapidly taking hold of the American ideas and customs, and are, today, taking active parts in social and eductional activities.

The same directory referred to above contains a long list of faculty members of colleges and universities in the United States. The list reveals the fact that these professors and instructors are not only predominant in one subject, but every subject that is taught in the American college and university today. Moreover, these instructors are in many

(1) Varney, L. H., - Italians in Contemporary America,- p. 5.
(2) The Boston Post - November 29, 1932.

of our most prominent universities, including institutions from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast. Approximately 150 instructors are listed.

It can be seen that the Italians are making big strides in all walks of American life. They have accepted American opportunities heartily and have succeded in making themselves known and felt in a comparatively short lingth of time. Education is now the goal every Italian parent strives for when considering the future of his offspring. He has come to fully realize this fact. This, together with the ambition and qualities of the American of Italian extraction, promises America many more contributions in the future.

4. American Business. - In the business world, we meet a similar story of rapid Italian advancement. No longer are the Italian-Americans content with the humble positions in industry which were held by their fathers. Today, men of Italian blood are found heading many of the large commercial institutions of the nation.

"In New York City, today, the Italian-Americans are factors in probably fifty per cent of the building operations of the greater city. To mention only a few of the outstanding names, one inevitable thinks of the Paterno brothers, of Count Anthony Campagna and of Ralph Ciluzzi, pioneers in the vast development of cooperative apartment house building

which has beautified Fifth and Park Avenues and Riverside Drive, of Gaetano Clemente, builder of many of the fine edifices of the Columbia University group, of Michael Del Balso, Antonio Di Marco and Paul J. Morganti, subway builders, and hundreds of others. In Chicago, we find Giosue D'Esposito, whose monument is the vast edifice of the Union Station. In other cities we have similar instances. John Tamasello of Boston, and John Arborio of Hartford, Conn., roadbuilders, Salvatore Mazzotta and Frank Arrigoni of Middletown, Conn., Paul and Joseph Colianni of Chicago and Minneapolis, and Anthony Rizzutto of Omaha, Neb., railroad builders." (1) And so the list continues. A race of builders, descendants of the immortals who gave to America the shining monuments of medieval architecture, the Italian immigrants brought to America all the latent skill of their racial heritage.

"In other business fields, the Italians have achieved corresponding success. In the fruit and shipping industries, the Vaccaro brothers of New Orleans with their fleet of merchant vessels in the Caribbean ports, hold second rank only to the United Fruit Company in the banana trade. The Di Giorio Line, with its vast fruit and shipping interests, both in New York and in San Francisco, is of international importance. The United Fig and Date Company, headed by

(1) Varney, H. L., - Italians in Contemporary America - p. 6.

Pietro Costa, is a commanding factor in the pine-apple trade.

"The silk industry has naturally attracted Italian investment. One of the largest silk houses in America is E. Gerli and Company of New York. Count Alfonso Pl Villa, Louis and Stefano Berizzi, Celestino Piva, Joseph Frova of Allentown, Pa., and Antonio Scola, Napoleone Gaddi and Vincenzo Sgrosso of Patterson, New Jersey, are among the Italians who have won prominence in the silk trade.

"In a kindred field are the great Italian importers of this country, many of whom reach the general, as well as the Italo-American market, with imported Italian food-stuffs. The most notable examples of success in this field are Ercole H. Locatelli, Guiseppe Vitelli, Florindo Del Gaizo, the L. Gandolfi Company, Luigi Scaramelli and Pl Pastene. An equal success has been attained by Joseph Personeni in the importing and merchandising of Italian drugs in this country." (1)

While the Italians in American business have shown a tendency to confine their ventures to fields which are inherently adapted to their racial talents and habits, there are many admirable examples of Italianswho have achieved extraordinary success in fields hitherto unrelated to Italian endeavors. "An outstanding example is Amedeo Obici, founder and president of the Planters Nut and Chocolate Company,

(1) Varney. L. H., - Italians in Contempory America, - p. 7-8.

which today dominates the peanut industry of the United States. Another large concern in the same industry, the Peanut Specialty Company of Chicago, is also headed by an Italian, Joseph Galli. Another noteworthy example is Generoso Pope, whoxe Colonial Sand and Gravel Company is the largest in the east. Other notable figures are A. D. Sebastian, founder of the Gioconda Shoe Company of Montreal and New York, John F. Cuneo, who heads the Cuneo Press of Chicago, one of the nation's largest magazine and book printing houses, Guiseppe M. Bellanca, Italian genius of the aviation industry whose Bellanca planes have written unforgetable chapters in the history of trans-Atlantic flights, Ugo V. D'Annunzio, who has opened a side American market to Italian motor cars, and who has now erected one of the largest aircraft plants in America for the manufacture of Savoia-Marchetti planes. The Graselli's of Cleveland whose Graselli Chemical Company ranks among the largest and oldest chemical manufacturing houses in the United States; Count Pio Crespi of Waco, Texas, and outstanding figure in the cotton industry, Guidi Pantaleoni of St. Louis, Mo., eminent engineer, F. A. D'Andrea of New York, pioneer manufacturer of Fada Radio sets, Albert H. Fabbri, president of the Northwestern Expanding Metal Company of Chicago, and J. M. Anfiero of Brooklyn, manufacturer of artomobile accessories." (1)

(1) Varney, L. H., - Italians in Contempory America,- p. 10.

5. Banking - As a natural corollary of the expansion of Italian interests in American business has come the development of great Italian-controlled banking and financial institutions. The outstanding Italian banker, is the financial genius Amedio P. Giannini. Born a Californian, the son of Genoese immigrants, beginning humble like many other Italians of the period as a small Italian banker, the rise of A. P. Giannini has been atrue epic of contemporary business.

"Today, the Giannini interests, spanning the continent, have expanded into such huge financial institutions as, the Bank of America National Trust and Saving institution with its 438 branch banks in California, the Bank of America National Trust and Saving Institution of New York, and numerous other banks, investment houses, insurance companies and trading corporations throughout the United States. In a collateral field, it is interesting to note that A. P. Giannini has given the University of California the princely gift of $1,000,000 to endow the Giannini Foundation for Agricultural Economics.

"Other shining examples of Italians who have won for themselves honored positions in American banking circles are: Siro Fusi, Pasquale I. Simonelli, J. A. Sisto, Felici Bava, Berardini Brothers, Italo Palermo, Peter Cimmino, Mariano Vervena, Leonardo Barbanzolo, and Antonino Corigliano." (1)

(1) Varney, L. H., - Italians in Contemporary America,- p. 10-11.

6. - Agriculture - It has been stated that only 25 per cent of the Italians in America have entered the farming districts of the country. Nevertheless, the agricultural contribution of Italians in America has been hardly less spectacular than their achievements in business. "Among the army of Italian immigrants who poured into America in the nineties and nineteen hundreds were thousands of skilled farmers and fruit-raisers of Italy. When opportunity offered, they went upon the land. Today, we find scattered throughout the United States, in numerous small agricultural communities, an unexpectedly large number of Italian-American farmers who have produced with amazing success the time-tested agricultural methods of Italy.

"The best-known Italian agricultural communities are: the rich grape-growing region of Asti in Somona County, Cal., developed by the 'Italian-Swiss Colony', the Italian vineyards of San Bernardino County: the grape-growing region in Lodi, California; and the extensive Montiverdi alfalfa holding near Los Angeles. Approximately ten per cent of the grape-growers of California are Italians. It is estimated that Italians are owners of a total invested capital of $50,000,000 in the California grape industry alone."

"Another region where Italian farmers play a major part in American agriculture is in the lower delta region of the

Mississippi. The strawberries of the Italian-American farmers of Independence, Louisiana are favorites in the fruit markets of Chicago and New York. The value of the output of berries from the overwhelmingly Italian form region of Tangipalo Parish, Louisiana, varies between seven and eight million dollars per annum.

"In the vicinity of Kenner, La Place, Convent, Thibodeaux, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Patterson, Shreveport and other Louisiana towns, thousands of Italian-American farmers are successfully tilling the rech delta soil. On the eastern shore in Natchez, Canton, Gulfport, Friars Point, Shelby, Rosedale and Sunny Side, Mississippi we also find the Italian element widespread."

"Similarly, in Texas, notable in Bryan, Dickinson and Montague, we find other colonies, numbering thousands, of Italian cotton and grain growers. Many of the most prosperous of these are the sons of immigrant fathers who came first as construction laborers on the railroads and remained to cultivate holdings of the rich Texas soil. Other small colonies of Italian farmers may be found in Lambert and Daphne, near Mobile Alabama, in scattered communities of Colorado and Utah, in Rosati and Marshfield in the Missouri OZarks, in Springfield, Arkansas, near Paw-Paw, Michigan, in Florida, in North Carolina and in the vicinity of Norfolk,

Virginia.

"Coming East, we find an extremely prosperous Italian fruit-raising community in Vineland and in Hammonton, New Jersey. Berries, grapes and other products from these Southern Jersey farms are shipped in great quantities to the Philadelphia and New York markets. Another community of approximately 10,000 Italian grape-growers is settled in the Hudson River Valley between Kingson and Carnwall, New York, Italian-Americans also have large holdings in the great grape-growing belt of northern New York, especially near Fredonia. A large colony of prosperous Italian fruit-raisers is settled in Rockcille, Connecticut. In the vicinity of the industrial cities of Conniceticut, pratically all the truck farming is done by Italians. The market vegetables of the city of Syracuse are supplied, in the main, by the Italian farmers of nearby Canastota.

"It would be difficult to estimate the aggregate value of the agricultural holdings of Italian-Americans in this country. The total is vast. Much of the land which has been settled by these Italian communities was formerly fallow and fertile. But the industry and intensive care of these immigrant farmers had in truth, 'made two blades of grass grow where before there grew but one.' Probably a total of 250,000 of the Italians in America, including their families, are

engaged in agriculture." (1)

7. - Miscellaneous - There are many Italians-Americans who have not been included in the foregoing classifications. The list of contributions would be incomplete if we did not mention them.

Probably the two most outstanding ones are Dr. Henry Suzzallo, former President of the University of Washington, now director of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and Guiglielmo Marconi, inventor of wireless telegraphy. Next in line we have Angelo Patri, educator and authority on the American child; Frank H. Vizetelly, world-recognized authority on the English language and editor of the Standard Dictionary; Guiseppe Faccioli, world authority on transmission of electrical power at high voltage, and chief engineer of the General Electric Plant at Pittsfield, Massachusetts; Guilio Gatto-Casazza, for 23 years the inspired director of the Metropolitan Opera House; Philip Torchio, vice-president of the New York Edison Company; Vincent Riggio, advertising manager of the American Tobacco Company; Dr. Charles R. Borzilleri, head of the Columbus Hospital at Buffalo, New York; Louis Forgione, popular novelist; Dr. G. A. Barricelli, of Cleveland, Ohio, author and physician; and Frank R. Capra and Frank Borzage, talented notion picture directors.

(1) Varney, L. H., - Italians in Contempory America, p. 12-13.

The Italian Historical Society, publishers of "Italians in Contemporary America", from which most of the names mentioned above were obtained, makes no pretension of completeness. Inevitably, many meritorious names have been missed.

It is amazing to note that the Italians have succeeded in all walks of American life. They are well-represented in every important American activity. In an incredibly brief period they have adapted themselves to our environment and have shown by their many contributions, that they will be valuable assets in the future welfare and prosperity of this great nation of ours.

CHAPTER VI

THE FUTURE

A:-Possibilities in the Second Generation.

(a)-True Americans - What shall be the future destiny of the Italians in America? This question can be partly answered through an investigation of the attitudes, aspirations, and what has been accomplished by the Americans of Italian extraction up to the present time. Comparative observations allow one to conclude that there are many valuable traits and qualities being added to the stores of assets that America has already gained by this newer acquisition of the Italian race.

Professor Mariano says that, "this is readily discernible because in all the manifestations of both his vocational and his recreational life this American of Italian lineage is easily amalgamated. Not only in the "art sense" does he make a most valuable contribution because it is one of the qualities we most concpicuously lack, but grace, courtesy, and ambition are also characteristics of Italian children in America. The first two qualities are an inheritance that has come down to them through three centuries; the third is developed or at least given a chance for expression by American conditions.

"A review of his institutions shows that given proper social, eductional and moral stimulation this American will respond in ways that show him to be constructively creative. We see in his schemes for betterment, both with respect to his own type and his ideas concerning those outside this group, that he is both fertile and facile in imitation. Undeniable evidences are numerous that he is intellectual and can become deliberative and rational. Given early in life a proper sense of direction and immunity from the vicious influences of the slums which cause him to evolve a bastard notion of personal liberty, we see that he does become a peaceful and law-abiding American." (1)

This becomes evident when we find that the institutions of adult Italians offer no attraction to the young Italians and hold no place in his life. Italian books, newspapers, societies, and clubs are all shunned by the younger generation. The young Italian abhors the language, customs, ways of thinking, and ways of doing of the adult immigrant. Frequently this line of cleavage between the two, when drawn too sharp, makes for much irritation and friction, and consequently unhappiness. And in most cases the young Italian certainly is not to blame. His crime is that he has become Americanized too fast. He is responding almost completely

(1) Mariano, H. H., - The Italian Contribution to American Democracy, - p. 233.

to American life, good and bad alike.

"Examining his voluntary institutions, and his coöperative efforts, we see in them the complete saturation of the mode of living and ways of thinking of the American of Italian extraction with Americanism and American culture. He has become completely absorbed. To recreate an organization for some specific purpose on the basis of a common Italian ancestry would be to resurrect anew the Italian individuality, and pseudo-Americanism would be the result. It is a positive fact that these Americans of Italian extraction have been completely absorbed into American life." (1)

The fact that so frequently we meet with the desire of such Americans of Italian extraction to change their names is an evidence of this subordination of things Italian and the elevation of Americanism to a primary place. Their general reticence in the acknowledgement of their "Italanity" affords added proof of this shifting value of ancestral traits and racial appendages.

Close observance of the personal habits of hundreds of Americans of Italian extraction serves to corroborate all of the above. Very few of them spend their time in Italian institutions. Italian customs, attendance on religious rites pertaining to festive occasions are absolutely ignored. Haynes has expressed himself on this aspect as follows:

(1) Mariano, J. H., - The Italian Contribution to American Democracy, p. 234.

"None brought this fact (the adoption of American ways) more strongly to my mind than the instances of the marriage spoken of in the description of an evening spent with the Italians. In their reasonable discussion of the useless cost of showy marriages, the changed attitude towards various kinds of work - and especially noticeable is their friendly attitude towards other races, and nationalities. It is impossible to discuss all the many little acts which clearly show the way these young Italians have taken up the manner of life here." (1)

It is very unfortunate that with this quick adoption of American customs and ideas the sacred heritage of Italy is thrown overboard. Professor Mariano says "that profligate America has done little to conserve the heritage of the immigrants she has invited to her shores. This however we hope will soon be stopped. The Carnegie Foundation is taking steps to put clearly befor e the public eye the genuine danger and acutal losses sustained by this too rapid absorption of first generation of Americans, and the consequent loss of the heritage of their ancestors." (2)

However, Prof. Mariano states. "there is no way of tellin what the future of the American of Italian extraction is to be, but, the only certain thing is that they wil not

(1) Haynes, B., - Some Italian Types of Mind, - p 81.
(2) Mariano, J. H., - The Italian Contribution to American Democracy. - p. 235.

make up the back-bone of our "muscle and brawn" population as was true of the parent." (1)

Feldman, in his book on Racial Factors in American Industry, on this point says, "the Italians, after the handicaps of language, strangeness of manners, and difference of culture are overcome, and with their number radically cut, there is a feeling everywhere that their star is in the ascendent, and that they will repeat the experience of the early Irish, who at first did the tedious and disagreeable work in many places, but who now are politicians, industrialists, officeholders, and occupants of the skilled trades and public positions." (2)

(b) Education, Crime, and the Second Generation - We cannot pass our comments on the second generation of Italians without referring to the popular opinion of thier predominance in crime.

There is a great degree of certainty when we predict that the second generation of Italians are displaying marked improvement in this respect and that education had been a dominating force in this probably achievement. There is no doubt that education is our most hopeful agent to resort to. Professor Mahoney says, "education should do the trick of getting people to obey laws without enforcing them." (3)

(1) Mariano, H., - The Italian Contribution to American Democracy, - p. 306.
(2) Feldman, H. - Racial Factors in American Industry -p. 159.
(3) Mahoney, J. J. - Lecture on Lawlessness - Boston University, Feb. 28, 1933.

This, of course, also aims directly at our second generation of European and Asiatic extraction.

On this same subject, James Trueslow Adams says, "It is impossible to blame the crime situation on the "foreigners". The overwhelming mass of them were law-abiding in their native lands. If they become lawless here it must be largely due due to the American atmosphere and conditions. There seems to me to be plently of evidence to prove that the immigrants are made lawless by America rather than that America is made lawless by them." (1) It is evident then, that these Americans of the second generation of immigrants can be aided greatly by a still more friendly, cooperative, and helpful spirit of the native-born. They will not find these European and Asiatic people hard to win over if the right attitude is assumed.

On the same subject, Professor Mariano says "finally comes the most hopeful conclusion of all based upon a comparison between extreme types of Americans of Italian extraction that have gone before and those that are with us today. Years ago a "tenement" type of American of Italian extraction existed which organized itself into lawless bands of corrupt youths, infesting the tenement districts, terrorizing police and private citizens alike and composing a community within a community that set up its own laws in defiance of the legalized guardians of the peace and public safety. The American of Italian extraction was as numerous, if he was not more numerous than any other group or portion of this petty brigand or thug class. The "Five Points" gang

(1) Adams, J.T., - Our Business Civilization, - p. 101-102.

was composed entirely of Italians, as was Jack Sirocco's gang, The Gophers, The Red Onion gang of South Brooklyn, Monk Eastman's gang, containing fifty per cent Americans of Italian blood, all testifying to a once prevalent type of American that is fast disappearing, if not entirely gone. One needs to go into the Italian sections today to see how radical has been the redirection afforded the pent-up energies of this vivacious group--thanks to changing American conditions and attitudes. They have made possible the tremendous increase of opportunities. What is hoped for is that in view of the showing made by this contrast of extremes, the opinion will universally prevail, that the profits and reward accruing to America is commensurate with the degree of readinness she displays in both materially and spirtually recognizing these Americans of Italian parentage to be as much her kith andkin as those who can boast of Puritan ancestry; and that her good in this respect is circomscribed only by her unwillingness to help herself." (1)

If every American will continue the helpful assistance Professor Marano has cited above and if a still more direct assistancd is afforded the American of Italian extraction by him, then there is no doubt that our nation will be amply repaid by his better behavior and his many excellent contribu-

(1) Mariano, H., - Italian Contribution to American Democracy, - p. 309-310/

tions.

B:-The American's Part in the "Italian's" Future.

There are still some Americans in the United States who assume an air of disgust and resentment when they hear the word "Italian", or anything that may have to do with the Italian strain. If this attitude is not of resentment it is gererally an air of partonage. Attitudes such as these will not assist the comparatively sensitive make-up of the Italian in his assimilation into American life.

Sartorio describes the correct attitude that a real American of a real democracy should maintain for the striving foreigner, "do not imitate the authoritative air of a Roman "padre", thinking that the nearer you come to that model the more you will be welcomed by men who are familiar with that type. You are Americans, sons of a democratic country. and you must represent Christianity in new ways; be pastors embodying the ideals of democracy, and in humility teach Italians that you would guide them by love and conviction rather than by superiority. You are of a young nation. It may seem a hard thing to say but there are lessons on the philosophy of "how to live" that you may have to learn from the Italian immigrant, and only a spirit of humility will enable you to go among them to learn as well as to teach. When you see the patience of people who work hard without murmuring,

when day after day you notice the meek courage of an Italian mother striving to raise a large family, and carrying a burden that would seem unbearable to any American women; when you admire Italians who, under all kinds of hardships, go on smiling and trusting in men and God, then you may understand what I mean when I say that there are lessons to be learned among Italians." (1)

Americans must attain a feeling that takes away the shadow of a feeling of superiority; a feeling that makes allowances for difference of opinion, training, conception of life; a feeling that does not stop to look at the exterior and is not daunted by an unshaved face or dirty hands, but a feeling that goes straight to the essential and admires the honesty of purpose and simplicity of character. A little word of kindness, an earnest desire to help, prompted by sincere feeling, are things which count more in winning Italian hearts than beauty of ceremoneal and knowledge of Italian literature.

In this plea for a better appreciation of the Italian Sartorio says, "You may win the admiration of the Italian by your eloquence; you may gratify them by being able to say a few words in their language and by showing a certain knowledge of their history; you may inspire respect by having

(1) Sartorio, E., - Social and Religious Life of Italians in America, - p. 135-136.

them notice you have in the community; but there is only one way to win their hearts; be a brother to them." (1)

C:-Conclusion.

It is neccessary to repeat that the Italians were the last to invade our shores and in all probability will be the last to become assimilated. It is clear that the handicaps of language, a despotic economic and political background, and the newness of their unified native land, serve as the main causes for this late assimilation into our American life. In order that we may more fully appreciate the Italian who today resides in our communities we must bear these facts in mind. We must also bear in mind the fact that in a remarkably short time of residence amongst us, his rise and assimilation have been a comparatively rapid one. We must picture ourselves, as Americans, invading a foreign country and handicapped as the Italians have been, attempting to attain the customs and ideals of that country. How would we feel and what sort of treatment would we expect?

We must realize that they are here to stay and for their own good and ours we must make the best of it. There is no doubt that they have the required qualifications to become Americans as has already been shown by their rapid rise in all fields of American life. It is our duty then as participants in a true democracy, to see that Italians, as well

(1) Sartorio, E., - Social and Religious Life of Italians in America. - p. 137.

as other foreign-born groups among us, will attain their full cycle of Americanization and assimilation in order that America may be assured of a progressive future.

Since these Italians and representatives of other foreign races have shown their values and abilities to make contributions to America's destinies, it is only common sense and logical thinking that we accept them and do our utmost to insure social solidarity and national unity. We must do our utmost to maintain the dominant American culture and to bring about under its egis as much homogeniety in a diverse population as possible.

Education, undoubtedly, has been and still is the most direct and most potent force for americanization and assimilation. Immigrant education and various activities connected with the education of foreign adults have been invaluable to the welfare and rise of the Italians in America. Education has been a vital agency in bringing out the human side of the immigrant. Through eduction, people have been taught to appreciate, to a certain degree, the "foreigners" and their problems. They have been taught to display more sympathy, assistance, and humility towards them. There is no doubt that education will further assist in this worthwhile undertaking. New courses of study, revised to produce better results in this respect are already "in the wind."

It is our duty then to see that we, Americans, Italians, Germans, Irish, French and all other elements occupying American soil shall understand, work, and coöperate with each other to insure the destinies of our country. American leadership is essential in this undertaking. We must look upon each other as integral parts and not disintegrating forces in the great American movement. In order that we may boldly face the problems of the future we must undertake to prepare ourselves to face them as one, unified, coöperative group of Americans.

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